

the east coaster

Better Four Wheeling. Better Together. Better Believe It.

Volume 51, Issue 1

Official Publication of the East Coast Four Wheel Drive Association

Spring 2020

Say Electric What? 2020 Rules Changes

FRANKLIN COUNTY HIGH POINT WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR '19

Region C's Franklin County Four Wheelers, EC4WDA's second-busiest producers of organized off road racing, announced their high point winners in both adult, juniors and pee wee competition for the 2019 year. Their drag strip is located in Brookville, Indiana, part of the Franklin County Fairgrounds complex.

Last year they staged six (6) races on their superbly maintained drag strip. The typical car count each race averages in the 100-120 range.

ADULT TOP FIVE WINNERS

Timmy Estridge	170
Michael Robbins	160
Aaron Korner	155
Jesse Pennington	150
Blake Shelton	140

JUNIORS TOP FIVE WINNERS

Owen Bowling	139
Justin Robinson	113
Jamison Wallick	113
Jaren Welke	108
Hunter Wallick	104

PEE WEE TOP FIVE WINNERS

Blayne Mullins	155
Hayden Mergenthal	151
Jaylen Meyer	113
Hank Buckler	091
Matthew Cregar	

Over the 50 years EC4WDA has been in business, we are quite sure that in the realm of rules changes, there's not been one to match the one the committee came up with at the November convention. There are only a few changes this time, but the *super pro class EV* just kinda hits ya.

CHANGES

Page 1 – Change from “There will be no exclusion to participating in the event by reason of make of four wheel drive vehicle.” to “There will be no exclusion to participating in the event by reason of make of vehicle.”

Page 33 -- #3 correct typo change 79 points to 76.

Page 39 – add super pro class “EV” – Electric vehicles

Page 48 -- #10 Change from “If the challenged driver refuses to disassemble the vehicle on request of the Tech Team, he or she is automatically considered guilty of challenge charges and must pay a \$400. fine.” to “If the challenged driver refuses to comply with requests of the Tech Team, he or she is automatically considered guilty of challenge charges and must pay a \$400. fine.”

As to the above reference to Page 39, you are correct if you assume we are talking about “electric vehicles.” Because, quite simply, we are. It would seem the EC4WDA competitive arena is planning for just that; battery-powered racers. Really? Yep. Stay tuned.

President's Corner

Welcome to the East Coast Four-Wheel Drive Association version 51. Yeah, we got 50 years under our belts so we've got the experience, let's see where we can go from here!

There are a Jeep load of activities happening in the Association in 2020 with something to appeal to everyone. We have the competition events happening in all Regions that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Many of our clubs are hosting trail riding events to test your skills and your vehicle limits on the trail that are a great way to enjoy the natural beauty of our area. These along with many other events happening in our clubs should make for a busy summer season.

But wait, there's more! Ever been to the Bantam Jeep Festival? If you have, you know how fun and exciting it can be. If you haven't, then maybe this should be the year you go check it out. And if you are interested in having some extra fun while volunteering some of your time that weekend, I am pretty sure Cathy Klotz and her merry group of volunteers would love having an extra hand or two at the Jeep Team Challenge that our Association handles at the Festival! It can be a win-win for you and the Association, so get involved, have some fun!

But wait, there's even more! This year we are having another Raffle to benefit our Association and our Regions. Our prize this year is a brand-new 2019 bright red Polaris Sportsman 450 four wheeler and it will also include a brand new MCT Mfg. 6X10 trailer to haul it on when

See "PRESIDENT" Page 2

101 South Miami Avenue, Cleves, OH 45002

“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”





**THE EAST COAST FOUR WHEEL
DRIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.**

The East Coast Four Wheel Drive Association, Inc. (EC4WDA) was founded and incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1969. Realizing the need to standardize running classes, rules and safety considerations, the three (3) founding clubs; Tri-County 4-Wheelers (Lisbon, Ohio), Allegheny 4-Wheelers (Oil City, Pennsylvania) and Triangle Four Wheelers of Pittsburgh, gathered in State College, Pennsylvania, in the fall of 1969 to establish EC4WDA. Today the association is composed of five (5) geographical regions in eleven (11) states. This publication, "The East Coaster", is the official printed voice of EC4WDA and is mailed to all categories of membership two (2) times a year; December and May. Advertising, as well as general information is available by calling (513) 941-1450.

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Vacant

A BENEFIT & CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR PATRICK McCLASKY IN MARCH / GIRARD, OH

Many in the "Jeep World" have been saddened by the loss of Patrick McClasky on February 11th. He had been battling cancer for many months. Patrick was responsible for starting the Outbackers Adventure Club which morphed into the Outbackers Race Team, an EC4WDA club. Known to many as the "Jeep Guy", he was very active in the sport.

On March 14th at the Alumni Club in Girard, Ohio, there will be a benefit incorporating food, Chinese auction, 50/50 and more. Admission is a \$12. donation.

Additionally, there will be a Celebration of Life for Patrick, Saturday, March 28th, between 2PM and 7PM at the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Girard, Ohio.

For information, call Connie Benner at (330) 306-8943



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Vacant

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BOB FORD, LONG TIME COMPETITOR, PASSES

Many in the sport, especially in Region C, were saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Ford, 74, of Junction City, Ohio, January 13th, following a stroke. His followers remember Bob as owner driver of "Jaws", his creation.

He was an avid dirt track racer and competed in off road as well. He raced sanctioned EC4WDA events since the very early 70's. He leaves his wife of eleven years, son Sean (an avid off road racer), daughter Bobbi, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his first wife Jami and daughter Jill.

A celebration of life for Bob was held, Saturday, February 1, in Heath, Ohio, attended by many fellow EC4WDA racers.

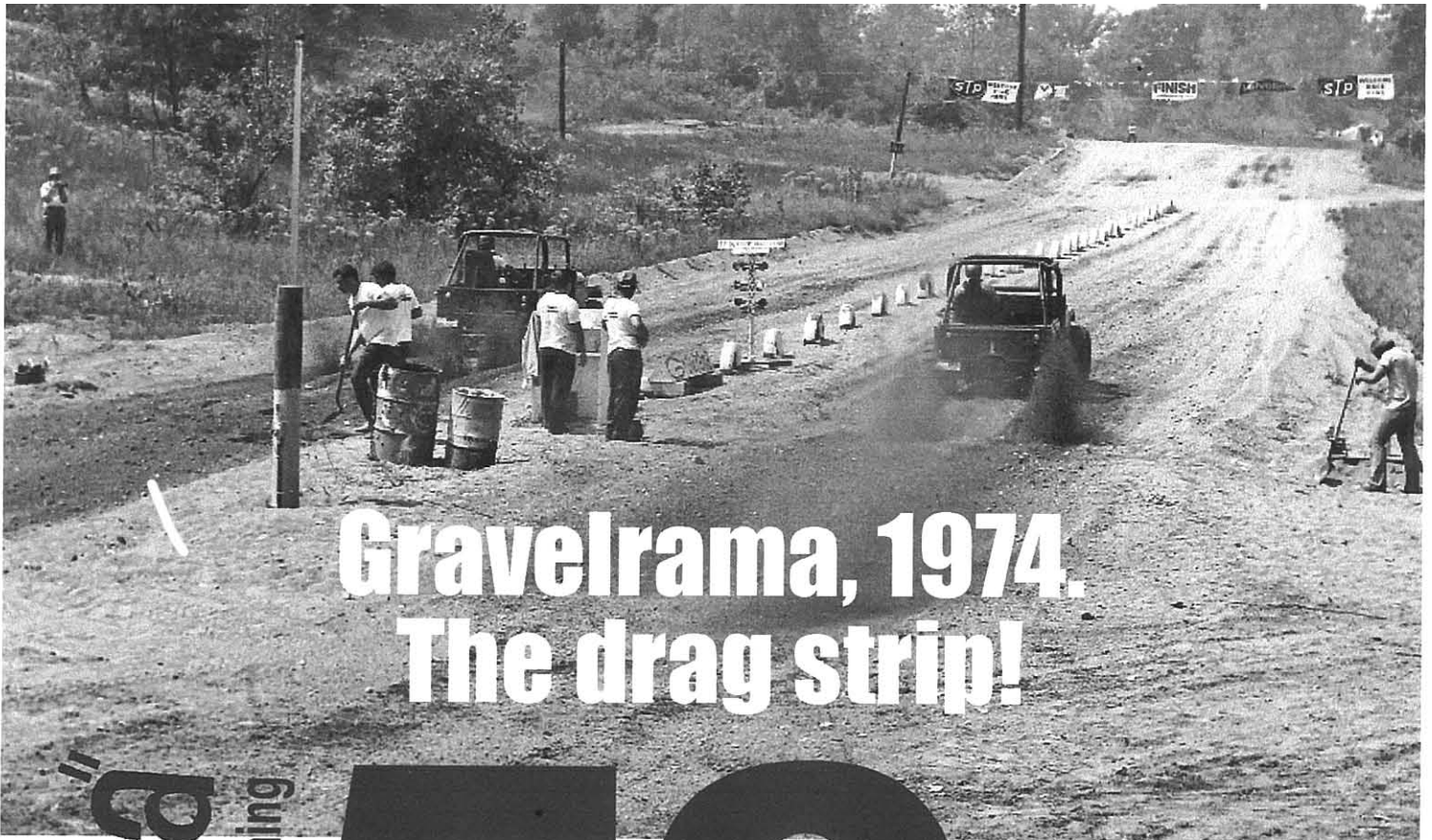
"PRESIDENT" from Page 1

the winner wants to go wheeling! In case you didn't know, your Region gets 10% of the ticket sales they make! Be sure and check with your Region officers to get some tickets and sell, sell, sell! And if you want the machine for an event that you would like to sell tickets at, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you!

But wait, there is even more! Are you kidding me?? Nope! This year we have a club in this Association that is celebrating 50 years of consecutive competition events! While they aren't the only club to reach a 50 year goal it is most definitely their year to shine! And shine they will! I have heard some rumors about some awesome things they have planned for their celebration. They have a great facility that can accommodate a large crowd and you can be sure the competition will be top notch. So if you are looking for a great event to go to in late August, be sure and check out the IOK's one and only Gravelrama 50.

Big "stuff" happening this summer, so get up, get out, volunteer, enjoy, compete, socialize, get dirty, make friends and enjoy the fun and good times of the EC4WDA!

**Enjoy yourself!
Barry**



Gravelrama, 1974. The drag strip!

Gravelrama
America's annual 4WD happening

50
AUGUST
26-31
2020

Golly! But it was an exciting time. We had three Gravelrama(s) in the history books and it suddenly became more than obvious to all in the I.O.K. camp that we were really on to something. Support was there, thanks to Jeep Corporation, EC4WDA and most of all the club, the membership, the leadership and the sport. They were coming to participate from all directions, as were the spectators. And the creative juices within the I.O.K. framework worked overtime to provide the platform, the foundation upon which future Gravelrama(s) were to thrive. It's a safe bet there weren't many who would have bet the mortgage that this band of Jeep fanatics who were charting the course would fool the skeptics and one day would loudly proclaim, for all to hear, that the 50th anniversary is upon us and we are going to mark the occasion with a celebratory enthusiasm that one would expect. And upon reflection, we must accept what a half-century has brought us; an event that in itself has been a celebration of sorts, a reunion, a rekindling of friendships, of blistering competition, of campground adventures and continuing stories.



Information: gravelrama.com / 513.353.1568 / 9850 Valley Junction Road, Cleves, Ohio 45002

CHAIRPERSON SHOFF REPORTS ON THE EC4WDA 50TH RACE

By Brad Shoff, Sr.

I listen to a station in the morning and they always have a feature called, "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly." I will be using that format for my report.

THE GOOD

1. Weather was hot but clear!
2. Plenty of help at registration, front gate.
3. Social was awesome and it was fun seeing a bunch of past racers.
4. Region B members stepping up to help in the pits for all the events.
5. The running of the drags in the round robin format. Great Job as it went fast!!
6. **The water truck guys. WOW!! Without them it would have been an ugly week-end.** They did an awesome job with the obstacle track watering so we could run 2 at a time and double elimination for the obstacle
7. The announcers that had to do a lot of talking over the weekend.
8. Everyone that stepped up to help fill positions that needed to be filled.
9. Competitor turnout and all the exciting racing.
10. Trail ride Friday was really fun for everyone that went. Thanks to the trail master and the ones that helped set it up.
11. All the Jr. Power Wheels racers and their parents. It was great to see them all race the drags and many the obstacle for the first time. They put on a great show and the announcer was really exciting to listen to and it made the kids feel good. He also was good to listen to during the adult obstacle.
12. Nice FLAT camping.
13. Met a lot of wonderful racers while giving out the awards for the flat drags.
14. **We made a profit.**

THE BAD

1. The timing light issues were terrible. I feel bad for the club as they have so much money invested in a fancy set of lights that are junk.
2. Many people missed the social because of racing. It was a great time to meet everyone.
3. Region B low turnout.
4. All the drag racers that left before

EC4WDA 50TH GENERAL CHAIRMEN SELECTED AS PAPPY FRY WINNERS



the obstacle. It was very exciting and had lots of close racing.

5. Many workers that didn't get their dash plaques. We had plenty made and if you did not get one please let me know.

THE UGLY

1. The lowest of the low was when the club members and parents yelled the F-word many times during the Jr. Racer obstacle. The kids were the losers as they didn't get to race. You are very poor role models and I hope your kids don't follow in your footsteps..

THANKS to all the members who put in lots of time and hard work to make this event happen. In the end it was a fun event, even with the long travel distance. Getting to meet many people for the first time was exciting. Also, hearing many old-time racing stories was fun with knowing that it was fifty (50) years of doing events with our association being the leader.

Two EC4WDA members from Region B/Atlantic, who partnered as chairs for the association's 50th Anniversary last year were honored at the November convention in DuBois with their selection as recipients of the prestigious Pappy Fry Award, the highest honor that can be paid. Both, additionally, are members of the EC4WDA Executive Board.

Brad Shoff, Sr. and Steve Forrester, EC4WDA Treasurer and Vice President, respectively, pictured above with the award, were recognized for their outstanding work in putting together and running the "Fifty Is Nifty" event over the July 4th weekend in Cleves.

Both are members of Columbia Hill Climbers. Brad is a resident of Dover, Pennsylvania while Steve is from Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

ASSOCIATION ELECTS TO CONDUCT ANOTHER RAFFLE; POLARIS 450 SPORTSMAN & TRAILER

On the heels of a successful RZR raffle in 2019 in which the association and the participating regions made a modest profit, the delegate body in Dubois at the annual convention voted overwhelmingly to conduct another this year. It was not easy last year for the association to resume a raffle after not having one for a number of years. Thanks to Mike and Cathy Klotz for their leadership in the endeavor which saw the association profit and the regions as well. Our regions receive a percentage of the volume their sales represent.

Speaking to this year's raffle, the association voted to spend \$7,000. to make it happen, handing the baton to President Barry. Here is what he came up with:

2019 Polaris 450 Sportsman 4 Wheeler (Retail value \$6300.). An upgrade to a nicer tire & wheel package (Retail value \$1200.)

MCT Mfg. 6X10 Trailer (Retail value \$1500.)

Total retail value \$9,000.

Following some negotiating and calling in some favors, the net cost to the association will be \$5999.00. Kudos to President Barry for his selections and his negotiating skills. The winner of this year's raffle will be announced Saturday night, November 14, in DuBois, Pennsylvania, when the winning ticket will be drawn.

2019 WINNER!!

As to a raffle winner, the RZR the association raffled last year was won by Breann Reed, daughter of Gary and Beth Reed of Dornsife, Pennsylvania. They are members of County Line 4X4 Roughriders, a Region B club.



Notes On November, 2019 EC4WDA Convention---

Some notes on the convention's Friday night board meeting included VP Steve Forrester presiding. President Barry was enroute from attending SEMA. Treasurer reported 50th Anniversary Race at IOK was profitable. Membership totals about the same. Region B reported low event turnouts. Insurance discussed; agreed availability is the problem. Mike Lowe new Region C chair introduced. He replaced Tom Eaton who resigned. East Coaster set for two issues in 2020. Trail Boss reported great 50th trail ride thanks to IOK's Jamie Wallick. Bantam report was very positive. Bryan Rensi resigned as By-Laws Chair. Gary Marr reported on NAMRC. New Biz: Region

A reported subsidizing Tucker County's insurance bill for their Memorial Day weekend race. Region B led discussion on insurance. Discussion about 2 Region B Broncos at SEMA. Motion by C. Klotz to reimburse Bantam volunteers \$40. each (13 members). Passed. (Bantam paid \$600. to EC4WDA for running "Jeep Challenge.") Motion to renew PA Games of Chance 2020 license for our annual raffle. Passed. Concerning delegate sessions Saturday and Sunday, only one (1) significant motion passed. It concerned the dues structure. Motion by Cathy Klotz to raise association dues beginning 2021 by \$6. per member to \$15. annually. Lengthy discussion. Passed. (Not unanimously but by very good margin) It was agreed the association would return to the same facilities in 2020. Adjournment Sunday approx. 10:30am.

2020 EC4WDA ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Following is the 2020 Activity Schedule for member clubs of the East Coast Four Wheel Drive Association. Events do not have to be solely EC4WDA-sanctioned to be listed; they must be events sanctioned (S), or hosted, involved in by EC4WDA, an affiliated club, or a region. Details herein are subject to change during the 2020 year. For general information, feel free to call (513)941-1450 or (814)357-8142.

DATE	PRODUCER	EVENT / LOCATION	INCLUDES	CONTACT
March 13	Region C	SPRING REGION MEETING Mansfield, Ohio	MTG	Mike Lowe (419)651-7410
March 22	Region B	SPRING REGION MEETING Allentown area (TBA)	MTG	Kurt Shenberger (717)755-3252
April 4	EC4WDA	Executive Board Meeting DuBois, Pennsylvania	MTG	Barry Kellerman (814)355-3181
April 3-5	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	SWAP MEET Cleves, Ohio	SM	Louis Sneed (821)432-5075
April 11	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	SUGAR CREEK SXS W2W RACE SERIES Cleves, Ohio	SXS, W2W	Jami Wallick (513)787-0152
April 25	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	Test & Tune Cleves, Ohio	FD	Frank Bromer, Jr. (513)708-5456
May 15-16	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	SPRING FLING Cleves, Ohio	FD, JR	Frank Bromer, Jr. (513)708-5456
May 23	Franklin Cty 4-Wheelers (C)	SAND DRAG RACES Brookville, Indiana	FD, JR	Justin Ball (765)580-0596
May 23-24	Delaware 4-Wheelers (B)	"FLAT-A-RAMA" (S) Frederica, Delaware	F8, FD, JR, SD(ns) JR(mx)	Ken Mullins (302)363-6199
May 23-24	Tucker County 4-Wheelers (A)	"41st ANNUAL CHALLENGE IN THE HILLS"(ns) Parsons, West Virginia	FD, MB, JR	Tom Hardy (304)478-2386
June 13-14	Line Mountain 4-Wheelers (B)	"ANNUAL COAL BUCKET"(S) Dornsife, Pennsylvania	JR, F8(s)	TJ Lenig (570)797-4540
June 13-14	Friends of Bantam	"ANNUAL BANTAM JEEP FESTIVAL" Butler, Pennsylvania (bantamjeepfestival.com)	JAMBO	Mike/Cathy Klotz (570)758-2575
June 12-14	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	SUGAR CREEK SXS W2W RACE SERIES Cleves, Ohio	SXS, W2W	Jamie Wallick (513)787-0152
June 20	Franklin Cty 4-Wheelers (C)	SAND DRAG RACES Brookville, Indiana	FD, JR	Justin Ball (765)580-0596
June 27-28	Susquehannocks 4-Wheelers (B)	"47th ANNUAL SUSQUEHANNOCKS RACE" (S) Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania	2FD, 2HC, F8, OB, JR, UTV	Tom Leonard (570)326-6116
July 11-12	Line Mountain 4-Wheelers (B)	ANNUAL 3 1/2 MILLER(ns) Dornsife, Pennsylvania	JR, OB	TJ Lenig (570)797-4540
July 17-18	Franklin Cty 4-Wheelers (C)	SAND DRAG RACES (FAIR RACE) Brookville, Indiana	FD, JR	Justin Ball (765)580-0596
July 18	Pine Creek 4-Wheelers (B)	"RUN WHAT YOU BRUNG" (BRACKETS) Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania	BRD	Chad Dunlap (570)295-0285
July 25	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	SUGAR CREEK SXS W2W RACE SERIES Cleves, Ohio	SXS, W2W	Jamie Wallick (513)787-0152
August 1	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	BRACKET RACE(ns) Cleves, Ohio	BRD	Frank Bromer, Jr. (513)708-5456
August 8	Franklin Cty 4-Wheelers (C)	SAND DRAG RACES Brookville, Indiana	FD, JR	Justin Ball (765)580-0596
August 8		TUFF TRUCK RACE(ns) Carbon County Fair, Palmeto, Pennsylvania	TTR	Chad Kohler (610)413-5546
August 12	Susquehannocks 4-Wheelers (B)	WHEEL 2 WHEEL RACING Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania	W2W	Tom Leonard (570)326-6116
August 26-31	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	"GRAVELRAMA50" (S) Cleves, Ohio	HD, FD, HC, OB, ELIM, JR	Frank Bromer, Jr. (513)708-5456
August 29-30	Pine Creek 4-Wheelers (B)	"ANNUAL THUNDER IN THE HOLLOW" (S) Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania	HC, FD, TE, JR, OB	Chad Dunlap (570)295-0285
Sept 5	Franklin Cty 4-Wheelers (C)	SAND DRAG RACE Brookville, Indiana	FD, JR	Justin Ball (765)580-0596
Sept 12-13	Columbia Hill Climbers (B)	"OFF ROAD CHALLENGE" (S) Steam O Rama, Windsor, PA (1673 Manor Rd.)	FD, F8, TTR(ns) JR, OB	Kirk Shenberger (717)578-2514

A little history of NAMRC

JIM BRAMHAM
CAL4WHEEL PAST PRESIDENT



Jim Bramham, Gary Marr and Jerry Schwartz reunited recently.

In the early 1990's long before Facebook, blogs, texts, and extensive email use, there was a real need for cross communication among the associations that represented off-highway vehicle interests across the United States. This effort was particularly important to the East Coast 4WD Association who represented a significant area east of the Mississippi River. Several of Cal4 Wheel's presidents made trips to the east as part of the DC lobbying effort and to promote association contacts. Jerry Schwartz was then president of the East Coast 4WD Association and Gary Marr served as its representative to United 4WD and later to NAMRC (North America Motorized Recreation Council).

NAMRC was formed when Don and Carol Jensen from Pacific NW 4WD Association (PNW), Jerry Schwartz, and Cal4's Past President Jim Bramham came together with representatives from other likeminded organizations. NAMRC is in its 25th year, now meeting annually at the SEMA show in Las Vegas. It continues to bring leadership of various organizations together in a round table fashion to share concerns and progress in the battle to keep public lands open.

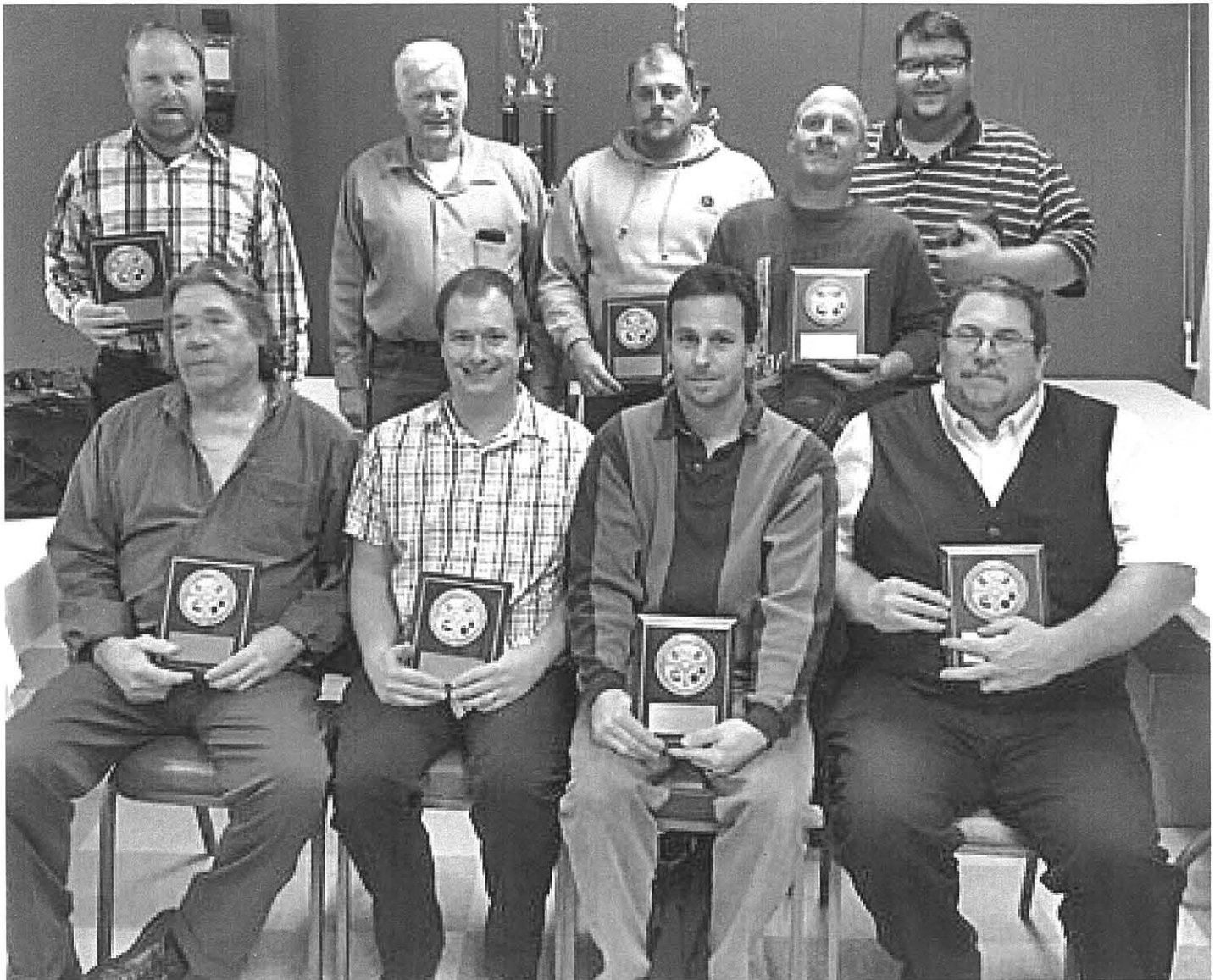
Recently Shirley and I ventured to Ohio for the wedding of Gary and Robin Marr's daughter Sarah. We were happy to find Jerry Schwartz in attendance. Attached is a picture of two old war horses with a very happy father of the bride.

Sept 18-19	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	"OUTLAW STYLE INDEX RACING"(ns) Cleves, Ohio	FD	Frank Bromer, Jr. (513)708-5456
Sept 19-20	Line Mountain 4-Wheelers (B)	"ANNUAL 7-MILER" (50th Annual Running) Dornsife, Pennsylvania	OB, JR	TJ Lenig (570)797-4540
October 3	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	SUGAR CREEK SXS W2W RACE SERIES Cleves, Ohio	SXS, W2W	Jamie Wallick (513)787-0152
October 10	Pine Creek 4-Wheelers (B)	"W2W & BRACKET BENEFIT RACE"(ns) Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania	BRD, W2W	Jerry Harris (570)419-9414
October 9-10	Franklin Cty 4-Wheelers (C)	SAND DRAG RACE Brookville, Indiana	FD, JR	Justin Ball (765)580-0596
October 11	Region B	Region B Fall Meeting Herndon Fire Company	MTG	Gary Reed (570)452-1621
October 16	Region C	Region Fall Board Meeting Mansfield, Ohio	MTG	Michael Lowe (419)651-7410
October 23-24	IOK Four Wheelers (C)	"ANNUAL LAST BLAST"(ns) Cleves, Ohio	HD, FD	Frank Bromer, Jr. (513)708-5456
Nov 14-15	EC4WDA	Association Annual Convention DuBois, Pennsylvania	MTG	Barry Kellerman (814)355-3181
Nov 21	Region B	Region B Competition Awards Dinner Pogelsville Fire Company	MTG	Kurt Shenberger (717)755-3252

BFD – bracket flat drags, CS -- camping fee, CAMP – organized camping, CF – campfire, CS – community service, DE – double elimination, ELIM – eliminator, ED – education, END – enduro, FD – flat drags, F8 – figure 8, JAM – jamboree, JR – junior competition, HC – hillclimb, HCU – highway cleanup, HD – hilldrags, MB – mud bog, MC – motocross, MCA – miscellaneous community activity, MR – mud race, MTG – meeting, NFD – night flat drags, NF8 – night figure 8, OB – obstacle, RC – rock crawling/competition, RR – road rally, RTI – ramp travel index, SOC – social, SD – street drags, SM – swap meet, SXS – side-by-side, TR – trailride, TT – test & tune, TTR – tough truck, W2W – wheel to wheel.

2019 COMPETITION RESULTS

On these two pages are the official results of EC4WDA Region B/Atlantic adult and junior competition for the 2019 racing season. Headlining this report are the adult champions in both open and womans divisions. The open division champion is Regan Hermany, member of County Line 4X4 Roughriders. He resides in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Womans division champion is Jesse Doll, resident of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania and a member of Columbia Hill Climbers. In Juniors competition, Bradley Shoff took first place. The picture below are the top open winners. The front row includes Regan Hermany, Brad Shoff, Jr., Steven Heilig, anf Kirk Shenberger. The back row is Chris Wilkinson, Sput Wilkinson, Dustin Fenstermaker, Allan Wise and Dave Hummel.



EC4WDA REGION B/ATLANTIC

Champions Jesse Doll and Regan Hermany are pictured top right with their open and womans division first place trophies. In the photo below aforementioned one are Liz Hummel and Jessie Doll, two of the womans division winners which also included Allison Breslin (3), Caitlin Keim (4), and Jennifer Keim (5). Lower left photo are the juniors. Front to back Brad Shoff, Laila Doll, Emilee Hummel, Lily Hummel and Josh Heilig. In the adult open division rankings behind Regan Hermany are Brad Shoff, Jr.(2), Steven Heilig (3), Kirk Shenberger (4), Dustin Fenstermaker (5), Chris Wilkinson (6), Allan Wise (7), Sput Wilkinson (8), Dave Hummel (9), and Jeremy Getgen (10). Winning club with high points was Columbia Hill Climbers. Past winners in adult division were Jeremy Crone and Jessie Doll. In the juniors, rankings are Bradley Shoff (1), Laila Doll (2), Lily Hummel (3), Emilee Hummel (4), Wyatt Grove (5), Adrina Getchen (6), Keaten Grove (7), Cj Wagner (8), Josh Heilig (9), Randy Brandt (10), and Kendall Dunlap (10).



Columbia Hill Climbers Winter Trail Ride and Poker Run

On February 7, six members of CHC headed North for what would be a four hour drive to Galeton, PA, in Potter County. Members included Matt West, Andy Miller, Dale & Dottie Dettinger and Kirk and Robin Shenberger. We had been advised there was already several inches of snow on the ground and the forecast was for several more inches to fall that day. Once we hit Lycoming County the ground started to turn white and so did the highways. The snowy roads slowed down traffic a little but we still reached Camp Woodshed before dark. Our normal routine of opening up the camp and starting a fire in the stove was under way. Once we were all settled in we headed out to Pine Creek INN for supper. Then we went back to the cabin to relax, watch some tv and have a few beverages.

We got up early Saturday morning got our vehicles all loaded up to hit the trails all day. We made a quick stop in Galeton for breakfast. At breakfast Kirk revealed his idea of making this year's trail ride a poker run. Everybody thought it sounded like fun and the first card was handed out. We headed out to Colton Point State Park where the trail ride was to begin. We wanted to hit some new areas this year so Kirk had mapped out a bunch of roads we haven't been on before. Matt West who normally leads us asked Kirk to take the lead since he had selected the roads we would be traveling. The roads were full of up and down the mountains and lots of beautiful photo ops.

Our first issue we encountered was a closed gate on a road that looked like public road on the map. We pulled over to figure out a new plan. Pulling off the road into the deeper snow made it tough for the stock grand Cherokees piloted by Dale Dettinger and Matt West to pull back up on the road. But after a little work they got themselves back on the

REGION C DELEGATION DRESSES WITH A VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE



Promoting Region C's big August event are (first row) Gary Marr, Jannie Kelly, Karen Reinhardt, Mike Lowe (second row) Jerry Schwartz, Toby Kelly, Mike Thomas, Ken Reinhardt and Terry Mutchler. Their message? Make plans now!!

road. Andy Miller was not moving however, after several attempts he just threw his hands up in disbelief. How could he be stuck. We get out to give him a little push and still nothing? I was baffled to see this Wrangler stuck in this situation. I then noticed the front end wasn't helping at all? I said Andy you lost the front axle bud. He looked down at the floor and I heard some linkage moving and all the sudden the wheels were spinning and Andy wasn't stuck anymore!!! Now Andy is trying to tell us he did everything in 2wd up to that point and I am not sure about that. I think it was a SENIOR MOMENT and he took it out of 4 wheel when we stopped and forgot to put it back in. Regardless we are back on our way.

We drove a couple more roads and we came to a road closed sign and not wanting any trouble with the law we turned around and had to shorten our course. We ended up back on RT 6 too early in the day to call it quits. Matt West advised he would take us on a couple more roads he knew

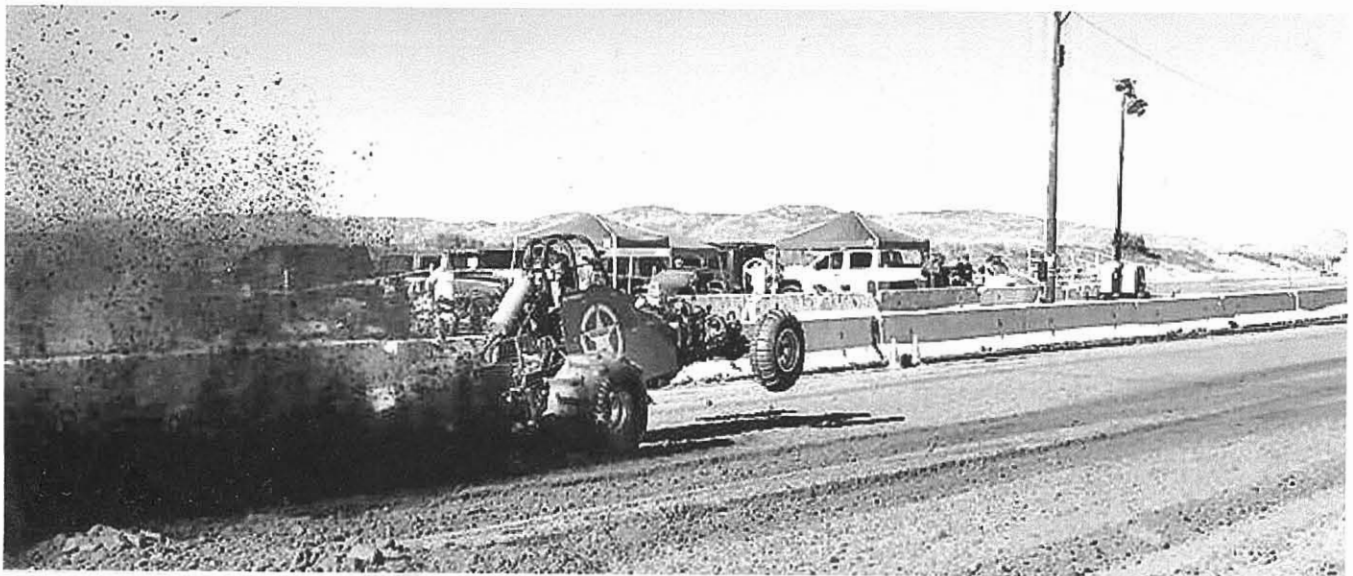
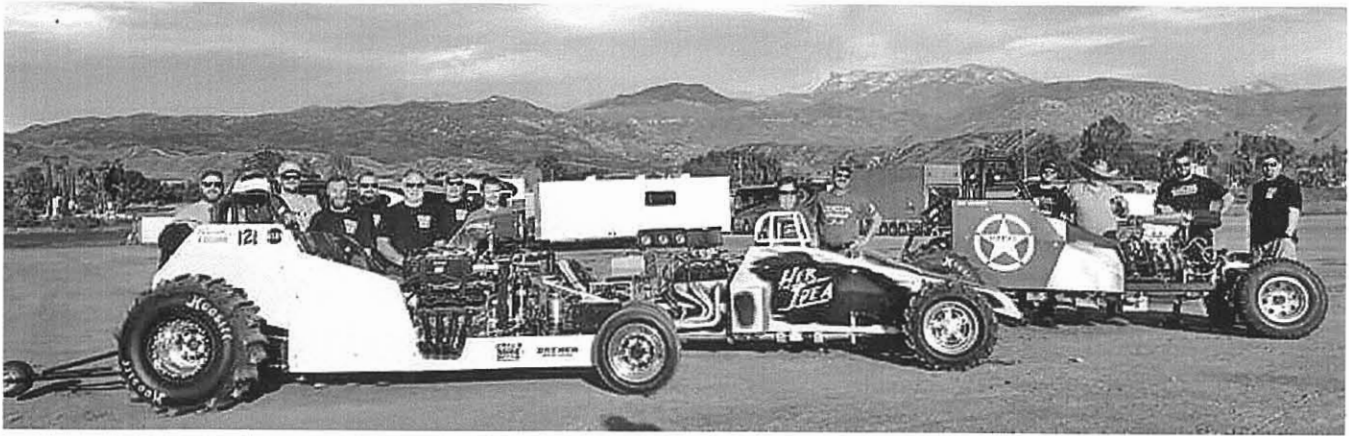


Won't you please consider a donation to our "One of Our Own Fund?" It is designed to help members who are "up against it," and you will feel good donating. Do it today!!

EC4WDA
...promoting
responsible
four wheel
drive activities
and protecting
our resources!!

See "WINTER TRAIL RIDE" Page 19

CALIFORNIA.....HERE WE CAME!!!



It's one thing to compete in your comfort zone, your hometown area where you developed over the years into a very successful competitor in the demanding motorsport of sand drag racing. It's quite another to travel to the mother land of high-velocity off-road adventure where sand drag racing takes on quite another level of battle. Multiply that by three and you've captured the essence of what Nick Manlove, Kyle Farwick, Larry Monnig and Tony Monnig encountered recently when they and their teams traveled to southern California to lend a smidgen of southern Ohio flavor to sand drag racing in desert country.

The location was Soboba Casino, Indian reservation land, where a drag strip is fabricated every year for the annual Southern California Sand Drag Association Tally Metal Supply Jim DePasse Memorial Race. Dates this year were January 31-February 2, a three-day event featuring everything from pee wee action to top alcohol, including quads,

motorcycles, Jeeps, dragsters, etc.

Most of the first two days are dedicated to qualifying rounds pertaining to classes including top alcohol, top eliminator, pro gambler, sport 1, sport 2, and more. One thing was obvious from the get-go. The Ohio delegation were all 4X4's. Hardly anyone else was, excepting a few Jeeps and quads. Conclusion: Sand drag racing on the west coast is primarily two-wheel-drive. Another interesting fact are the remarkable ET's. The fastest class is top alcohol where the 300 ft. run routinely takes less than 3 seconds and sometimes can duck under 2.5 seconds. Those race vehicles have power plants generating nearly 6,000 horsepower. In fact, Arizona's James Hammond's racer, "April's Dream" competes in top alcohol and does have a 6,000 horsepower engine.

Kyle Farwick, I.O.K. member, (as were the entire 14-man, 3-race cars Ohio delegation) driving the Farwick-Callahan 4X4 altered sand car, on his first quali-

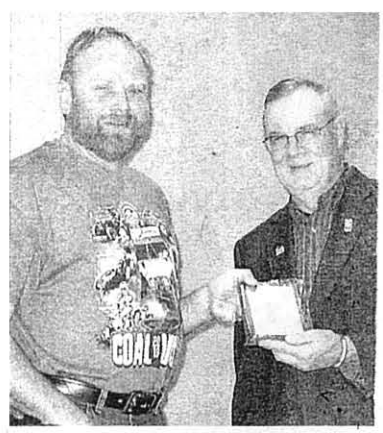
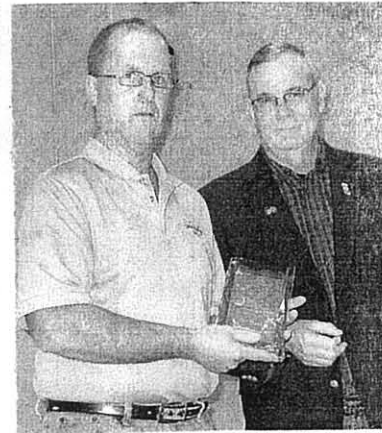
fying run launched violently, standing his car up right out of the gate, had to get out of it and his run was over 5 seconds. On his second qualifying run, they couldn't get the car to fire, so he told the race officials to pass him by. When he did get it started, they did permit him to run a pass by himself that resulted in a 2.89ET, eliminating him since the Top Eliminator class was a 2.95 index (breakout). Officials speculated that perhaps Kyle was going for the 4X4 World Record in 300' (2.86ET) which is held by a "Gravelrama" veteran, Josh Stephens, whose Hemi-powered "Blown Income" raced at Gravel more than once. Josh is from Missouri and raced with Show Me 4-Wheelers.

Nick Manlove in Sport 1 class finished second, in spite of "treeing" Ryan Buckler in the final. It was Nick's first outing with his new car, "Her Idea".

The Monnig's two classes, Pro Gambler and Pro 1 were both eventually

See "CALIFORNIA" Page 13

Recognition. How Sweet It Is!



T-R-A-D-I-T-I-O-N-!! Awards, recognizing those clubs and individuals who go the extra mile have been part of the convention's Saturday night menu for many years. From the left, TOP ROW: Carrie presenting Jim Kopfer for County Line Rough Riders Connie Benner Award, Barry presenting Jannie Kelly table

decoration award, Carrie presenting Ed McKillip Lou Straitwell Award, Barry presenting Andy Miller table decoration award. 2ND ROW: Gary Marr receiving "President's Award" from President Barry, Chris Owens with Region B Chairman's Award, Barry presenting Toby & Jannie Kelly with adult costume award, and Jim

Kopfer with adult costume award. 3RD ROW: Carrie presenting Andy Miller Columbia Hill Climbers permanent community service plaque, Barry presenting Mike Klotz 1st Place table decoration award, Barry presenting Mike & Cathy Klotz costume award, and Barry presenting table decoration award.

ASSOCIATION-WIDE TRAIL RIDE SET FOR MAY 2-3 AT ROCK RUN, PATTON, PA

The Association-wide Annual Trail Ride has been announced by Ed

McKillip, EC4WDA Trail Boss. The dates are May 2-3 and the location is Patton, Pennsylvania, between and a little north of Indiana and Altoona.

The venue has 140 miles of trails and offers spectacular views from atop the Allegheny Mountains.

Cost is \$27., plus \$12. for

passenger(s) May 2nd. A special ride for \$5. is also scheduled for May 3rd.

If planning on arriving Friday night, you will have to be there between 5:30pm and 6:30pm. Camping is \$15.

EC4WDA Rules Chair Chad Owens Finishes 21st in 2020 "King Of The Hammers" Race



A SEMA PARTICIPANT'S VIEW ON FORD'S EARLY RACE BRONCO DISPLAY

Marc Martin, Delaware 4-Wheelers member as well as a Line Mountain 4-Wheeler, whose Martin Brothers Racing Team Bronco was selected to be a part of Ford's "10 Famous Vintage Racing Broncos" selected for display at the 2019 SEMA Show in Las Vegas this past November has contributed the following:

We got invited to the Sema Show in Las Vegas. The show ran from November 5th to the 8th, 2019. Ford Motor Company wanted an Early Bronco race display. This was in anticipation of the release of the 2021 Bronco.

They wanted Broncos from different types of racing. There were Broncos that race in Baja, King of The Hammers, mud bogs and EC4WDA. It was really cool to see how the other ones were built for their type of racing. "Big Oly," probably the most famous early Bronco ever raced, was something special to see.

We were staged in the Ford Out Front booth. There were 10 Broncos in the booth, with three from the east coast. Ray & Mary Kamp had their "Joker" on display, Michael Dennis from Virginia had his mud bogging "Marcel" on display. And I had my "Martin Bros. Racing" Bronco there.

It was perfect weather for the show. The show itself had so many cool products and displays. It was so big we didn't get to see everything.

It was a huge honor to be invited by Robert Parker of the Bronco Club Of America. And a huge thank you to Drew Peroni from Dover, Pennsylvania for hauling our Broncos to Las Vegas and back. *(Editor's Note: Please see photos on this issue's back page.)*

Would they go back? You betcha. It was an expensive proposition for all concerned, over a 4,000 mile exercise, but it was a checkmark on their bucket lists.

**By Cathy Klotz
EC4WDA Board Member**

I find it appropriate to congratulate Chad Owens, our EC4WDA Rules Chairman and a Region B member, on his 2020 King of the Hammers 21st place finish. To finish this race is a huge accomplishment. 99 racers started in the Ultra 4-4400 class, 44 finished a race encompassing 212 miles of desert and rock canyon trails and deemed "The Toughest One Day Race in the World".

Many of our other members joined Chad on this 2,800 mile journey from PA. to Johnson Valley, CA. His team of Region B members includes, his parents Dan and Chris Owens, Co-pilot Dan Newhard and wife Gwenn, Rick Weber, Region B Rules Chairman, Trent Klawans, Christopher Trinkle, Donnie and Jeremy Dietrich, members of County Line, Trailblazers or Phantom Racing, past Region B members Mike and Deb Rauch, Bryan Sterner and Chelsea Holmes. Other team members

included Brian Swet employed by sponsor OK 4 Wheel Drive, Blue Mt. Jeep Alliance members Danny Daniels and Keith Tamandl, friends Glen and Deb Gara, Dylan Schantz and Jay Kucharski.

Taking a small, grass roots race team across the country in the middle of winter to compete on a level with professional and around the world teams took what Ultra 4 quoted as "Hard Work, Dedication, Innovation, Fabrication and Teamwork." Chad's years of racing in EC4WDA gave him a good foundation on which to expand and venture into this new form of competition.

It truly was an East Coast proud moment when Chad was captured on Ultra 4 Live Feed Coverage of the race on Feb, 7th negotiating some of the rock canyons and trails and his interview on stage at the finish line.

For more details and pictures from the race you can visit Owens Racing on Facebook.

Sunday, which they did. However, the glitch in the system that accounted for the lights failing the first time repeated in the same fashion Sunday.

The Ohio delegation was impressed with the track and the maintenance. It was a combination of sand and dirt, much like the moon surface. (Really?) Taking a step meant your foot sinking in five inches or so. And, with the equipment on hand, maintenance of the track was a seemingly easy proposition.

"CALIFORNIA" from Page 11
cancelled due to light issues which occurred both Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday, when the lights went down, flag drop grudge racing prevailed the remainder of the day.

No classes were completed except smaller classes, Friday evening and Saturday morning, again due to light issues. When the lights went down Saturday, the plan was to bring another set from Bakersfield, California for

YOUNG ANDREW DARLING VICTIM OF TURNPIKE TRUCK ACCIDENT

Many in EC4WDA were shocked to learn of accident victim Andrew Darling, son of Dennis and Kathy Darling, who lost his life in a truck mishap on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in May of 2019. Andrew was a third generation Darling who was a competitor in East Coast sanctioned as well as non-sanctioned racing events. He was the grandson of Tom Darling, one of very few who were on board when EC4WDA was formed in 1969.

Growing up in a racing family was routine for Andrew as he began as an EC4WDA Junior racer and later advanced into the "big stuff." The Darling family is synonymous with organized four wheeling from its beginning in Middle America. Grandfather Tom was the architect of the important sanctioning makeup of EC4WDA from the get-go. Tom was a racer as are three of his four sons, Dennis, Luke and Zeke as well as Andrew's brother Ben.

Andrew's untimely passing leaves an empty chair at the competition table. However, "Andrew's Dream" lives on.

REPORT OF 2019 COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Carrie Ion, Chairperson

REGION A

Erie County--

2/19 Ludlow game feed & trail ride

5/19 Allegheny National Forest trail ride & clean up

7/19 Walk to raise funds for The Kyle Swain EMS Memorial Scholarship

9/19 Allegheny National Forest trail ride & clean up

Holeshot—

Toys For Tots & food pantry donations

REGION B

Columbia Hill Climbers—

Toys For Tots \$300. donation

\$1,000. raised for local Fire Co.

\$100. donated to family in lieu of flowers

County Line 4X4 Rough Riders

Donation of clothing to Salvation Army & other local charities.

Sponsored benefit bingo for family who

COMPETITION RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

By Chad Owens

EC4WDA Rule Chairman

I start by thanking everyone who took the time to attend the 50th Anniversary Convention in November in DuBois, Pennsylvania. Fifty years of this organization sanctioning races, organizing trail rides, and participating in community service events is a huge accomplishment. There has been a lot of hard work put in throughout the years by all of the past and present members, especially the board members, allowing us to be here today. A lot has changed over the last 50 years, the rules have grown from a single sheet of paper to a book, vehicles are reaching performance levels that could not have been imagined when this all started. The biggest thing that I feel has allowed us to survive is the friendships, we all share a common passion for off-road and many friendships have been formed sitting around the campfires drinking a beer after a day of friendly competition or trail riding.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped put on the 50th anniversary race in July, especially Toby and Jannie Kelly and all of the IOK members who opened their amazing grounds up for a very monumental celebration for this association. It was a wonderful weekend and a good showing of both present members along with past ones.

As for the rules committee things were quiet this year. I received very few questions throughout the season. I will give credit to some members. They can be very creative in trying to find any loop hole in the rules to gain that slightest competitive advantage.

I hope everyone enjoyed the weekend celebrating 50 years of something great. Let's be honest. Most of us will not be here in another 50 years, so enjoying this one was a once in a lifetime event.

suffered house fire \$5,000. was raised.

Donation of clothing and Christmas gifts to a youth and family group.

"Wreaths Across America" donation in Allentown area

(Editor's Note: EC4WDA Community Service is generally defined as an action that benefits the community, whether it be donation, financial, or volunteerism.)

EC4WDA LAND USE REPORT

By Gary Marr, Chairman

Phoenix Off Road Park in Ohio is now closed due to the DNR and EPA. Blue Ribbon is aware.

Bill Kaepfner, who had been a guest speaker at several EC4WDA conventions, passed away. He represented The Ohio Motorized Trail Association.

Legislator Mark R. Maynard from West Virginia was at the NAMRC (North American Motorized Recreation Council) meeting, part of the SEMA show in Las Vegas and is supportive of organized 4wheeling, especially EC4WDA. He knows several Region A and Region C members. He is involved with a trail ride scheduled February 1st, 2020, in Charleston West Virginia. A flyer is on website: <https://namrc.com/2019-meeting-reports/>

The forest service has plans in Colorado that some East Coast members are concerned about as it will impact trails in Buena Vista, Salida area.

The RPM Act was reintroduced in the U.S. Senate for the current session of Congress. The Recognizing the Protection of Motor-sports Act of 2019 (RPM Act) protects America's right to modify street cars and motorcycles into dedicated race vehicles, along with industry's right to see the parts that enable racers to compete. You maybe one of the thousands of supporters who contacted your legislators about the RPM Act in a past session. Your efforts are appreciated and are in need of your support once again. Tell your U.S. Senators to do their part to save racing from government threat by supporting and passing the RPM Act.

EDITOR SAYS THANKS

Just a brief note here to express thanks to those who helped with this issue of the COASTER. They are Cathy Klotz, Barry Kellerman, Kirk Shenberger, Andy Miller, Marc Martin, Tony Monnig, Brad Shoff, Betty Lenig, Toby Kelly, Chad Owens, Jim Bramham (Cal4). Gary Marr and Ed McKillip.

COMPETITION RESULTS: "FIFTY IS NIFTY" 50TH ANNIVERSARY & REGION B's SUSQUEHANNOCKS

EC4WDA 50th / "FIFTY IS NIFTY"

Sanctioned EC4WDA Regions ABC

Cleves, Ohio

July 4-5-6-7, 2019

IOK 4-Wheelers Host

Official Results

QUICK 8 / OPEN

Rodney Upchurch, Justin Dees

BRACKET RACE / OPEN

FAST

JR Calvert, Keith Bourne

SLOW

Michael Robbins, Stacey Pressley

BRACKET HILL DRAGS / OPEN

Austin Bullock, Kelly Baker

UPHILLS / OPEN

H Mike Tally, Sean Ford

F Ken Reinhardt, Chad Steiner

I James Wallick, Kirk Shenberger

J Mike Thomas

XXA Kelly Baker, Blake Cole

A Rodney Upchurch, Rusty Searle

XXB Larry Monnig, Lance Kaiser

C Timmy Estridge, Blake Cole

E Wayne Gunter, Sandy Crosby

XB Larry Monnig, Austin Bullock

B Leroy Kocher, Timmy Estridge

XC Otis Sizemore, Trevor Sullivan

XXC Ryan Keller, Dylan Cregar

D Blake Cole, Chad Owens

XD Cody Trice, Wayne Gunter

G Ray Mond, Bob Ford

XXD Bub Balsley, Mike King

FLAT DRAGS / OPEN

J Mike Thomas

C Brayden, Kocher, Blake Cole

I Robert Howell, James Wallick

B Timmy Estridge, Tyler Hampson

XXD Bub Balsley, Mike King

H Sean Ford, Mike Tally

F Brian Campbell, Chad Steiner

A Rusty Searle, Ryan Wilson

XXB Mike King, Craig Gum

G John Monolakis, Brad Shoff, Jr.

XD Cody Trice, Steve Engel, Jr.

XXA Bob Cameron, John Traynor

XC Keith Bourne, Otis Sizemore

E Wayne Gunter, Sandy Crosby

XB -- , Austin Bullock

XXC Dylan Cregar, Ryan Keller

D Blake Cole, Chad Owens

ELIMINATOR

Cody Trice, Kelly Meyer

JUNIOR RACER / JR.

Wyatt Hill, Luke Wolnitzek

JUNIOR RACER / SR.

Lillian Wolnitzek, Johnnie Brotherton

OBSTACLE / OPEN

H Chad Owens, Donald Dietrich

F Bubba Wilson, Kirk Shenberger

D Sean Ford, Brad Shoff, Jr.

C Regan Hermany, Ken Rinehardt

A Steve Forrester, Larry Kuhns

AA Chad Owens, Brad Shoff, Jr.

OBSTACLE / WOMEN

F Angel Howell, Kayla Bolte

E Jessie Doll, Amanda Dumford

C Karen Rinehardt

46th Annual Susquehannocks Race

Sanctioned EC4WDA Region B

Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania

June 29-30, 2019

Susquehannocks 4-Wheelers

Official Results

FLAT DRAGS / WOMEN

H Caitlin Keim, Jessie Doll

F Jen Keim, Alison Breslin

D Liz Hummel

FLAT DRAGS / OPEN

UTV MOD Mike Eck

Cory Wagner

H John Foieri, Jermey Getgen

G Brad Shoff, Allen Wise

F Regan Hermany, D. Fenstermacher

E Steve Heilig, Dave Hummel

B Tom Hartman, John Purcell

A Gary Rothermell, Ernie Ruch

HILL CLIMB / WOMEN

H Caitlin Keim, Jessie Doll

F Jen Keim, Allison Breslin

D Liz Hummel

HILL CLIMB / OPEN

UTV MOD Cory Wagner, Mike Eck

H John Foieri, Jermey Getgen

G Allen Wise, Brad Shoff

F Regan Hermany, D. Fenstermacher

E Steve Heilig, Dave Hummel

B Tom Hartman, John Purcell

A Gary Rothermell, Ernie Ruch

FIGURE 8 / WOMEN

H Caitlin Keim, Jessie Doll

E Jen Keim, Allison Breslin

D Liz Hummel

FIGURE 8 / OPEN

UTV Levi Metzinger, Corey Wagner

H Jermey Getgen, Corey Wagner

G Brad Shoff, Allen Wise

F Chris Wilkinson, D. Fenstermacher

E Steve Heilig, Tom Leonard

SUSQUEHANNOCKS GIVES PLENTY OF SEAT TIME!!

By Ken Bardo

For those who attended our race in June at Jersey Shore, they got lots of seat time! We had two rounds on the hill, double elimination on the drags, double eliminations on the obstacle course and hosted the Bruce Eroh Memorial Race. We also had Junior racers. Our 2nd race was the Wheel 2 Wheel.

We had 22 racers on Saturday and 13 on Sunday. If you would like to race, come to one of our events and bring a friend.

Many thanks to Fred Brown for running the water truck and to all who helped at our race. Susquehannocks would like to thank everyone who came to our races. Don't forget to put us on your calendar for next year.

I would like to mention that John Maggs, one of our former members, passed away. Let's keep his family in our prayers.

A Austin Lahr, Sput Wilkinson

OBSTACLE / WOMEN

E Caitlin Keim, Jessie Doll

C Jen Keim, Allison Breslin

B Liz Hummel

OBSTACLE / OPEN

UTV Levi Metzinger, Corey Wagner

Buggies Wyatt Kerster, George Wallish

H Steve Heilig, Austin Lahr

E Kirk Shenberger, Jermey Getgen

C Chris Wilkinson, D. Fenstermacher

B Sput Wilkinson

OUTLAW SAND DRAG SERIES CHAMPIONS / 2019

3.5 Johnny Dreher

4.0 Stacy Davis

4.5 Ryan Kerr

Nickle Nightmare Blake Cole

King of the OUTLAWS

Kathy Ellington

The series was conducted on IOK's grounds; May 10-11, June 7-8, and September 27-28.

I.O.K. PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS FOR "GRAVELRAMA50" CELEBRATION!

The association's largest club is making no secret of its intentions for the latter days of August; "Gravelrama50" is going to be a celebration befitting an event that has reached a half-century. At this point in time we can share some of the exciting things planned.

The world's original and certainly most infamous monster truck, BIGFOOT, will be in attendance. Bob Chandler brought his Ford F-150 with larger than normal tires and articulated rear steering to "Gravelrama" in the mid-70's and returned for a number of years thereafter, even attempting the BIG ELIM, eventually with success. In addition, he brought Ms. BIGFOOT and the BIGFOOT tank. His original visit was as a tow truck for racer Bob Blank of St. Louis, Missouri who drove "Woodstock."

For the annual "Red Dog Saloon" dance, traditionally on Wednesday evening following the parade, the hot, regional country / rock band "Renegade" will be featured in a concert stage setting.

For the children, there will be a carnival midway of rides.

There will be other surprises to come.

And, if the abundance of phone and website inquiries mean anything, there will be a crowd. And contrary to rumors, the event is not sold out. The club, in response, has assured all that in the 49 years past, not a single person has been "turned away."

Pre-registration opens May 1

CYBERSPACE COORDINATOR REPORT

By Brady Forrester

My goal this year was to help promote the things we had planned, like the RZR raffle, the Big 50th at IOK, and the fall convention. I think this year went pretty well for us and I'm looking forward to see what changes we can do to ensure another 50 years and how I can better promote those changes.

If your club would like to promote events, please send me information or a

REGION B CHAIRMAN 2019 REPORT

By Kirk Shenberger, Chair
Well, it is hard to believe that our 50th Anniversary year is coming to an end, already. This was the first time I ever attended and competed in every sanctioned race of the season. Although it ended up being only five (5) races, it still made for a busy summer. I hate to say it, but it is obvious that the number of competitors at the races were really low. Unfortunately, I do not have an answer to this problem. Several of our members approached me this year with questions like what do we have to do to get people to come out? How are we going to survive if nobody wants to come to race anymore? The best answer I could come up with is this. I know from seeing it with my own (eye) over the years. Every club in our region has dedicated members that refuse to give up. We find ways to make things happen and come up with ideas to try and bring in new blood to the sport.. It might not always work, but if we keep pushing new ideas forward then we hopefully can keep moving forward.

I was happy to hear that all of our clubs that normally hold a points race will, in fact, be doing so again in 2020. I know County Line has been trying to find a new venue and hopefully we soon will have them back on the schedule. Columbia Hill Climbers had a rough year needing to find a new track and it looks like they are good to go for 2020.

I want to thank EVERYONE that made the anniversary race happen. I can only imagine many IOK members spent numerous hours getting ready for the event. The grounds were awesome. Brad and Steve did a great job heading up this event. I know it was a long trip for the folks in Region B, but those of us who did had a great time! Were there some issues, complaints, disagreements on the way to do things? Of course there was. But, as always, we worked things out and had a great time.

I would like to end by asking we all pray for our members we lost this year. Keep their families and friends in your prayers.

flyer I can post. Also, if your club has any photos of events and especially community service projects, please send them to me!!

TRAIL BOSS REPORT

By Ed McKillip, EC4WDA Trail Boss
The association's annual trail ride was held in conjunction with EC4WDA's 50th Anniversary Race held at the IOK grounds near Cleves, Ohio, over the July 4th weekend.

On Friday morning, July 5th, with IOK's Jamie Wallick leading the way, we caravaned to Haspin Acres near Laurel, Indiana. After unloading with 10 vehicles, we headed out with Jamie out front. First getting hung up was Andy Miller with his Wrangler on a log at a steep drop off in a stream bed. A quick tug back and we were good to go. Getting down to an open area, Tom and Alex King had their turns conquering a hill. Later, Rob Baldrick impressed us with a stock Ford Raptor showing what it could do. Meanwhile, David Wright and his Rubicon got hung up on the same log as Andy but had his front over the drop off. Randy Kline went back up the stream and pulled him forward off it. Then I had problems with my front drive shaft coming apart a couple of times. Later I got crossed up on a hill and winched out. The Jim Kopfer was high centered in a mud hole but was out with a quick tug.

Being so hot and everyone wanting to get back to the races, we headed back after lunch. I want to thank Regan Hermany for bringing his trailer back to get my Jeep when the wheel bearings went out on the way back. Also thanks to Regan, Jim Kopfer and Randy for help replacing the bearings so I could drive back to Erie, Pennsylvania.

There was no interest on a Saturday ride, so everyone concentrated on the races. The Worst Stuck Awards went to Andy Miller and Dave Wright.

EARLY EC4WDA PIONEER WARREN WILLIAMS PASSES

The association was saddened to learn of the passing of U.S. Mules Racing Team founder Warren Williams, February 22nd, in Piscataway, New Jersey. He was 80 years old. His wife of more than 50 years, Laura (nee Brarens), died in 2019.

Warren raced Jeeps and snowmobiles. He operated Williams School Bus Company until the mid-70's. For many years, Warren and wife Laura were leaders in the sport, members of the Boondock Blazers prior to founding the Mules in the latter part of 1979.

BLYLER/ERDMAN TEAM "KING OF THE HAMMERS" WINNERS



Josh Blyler and Jared Erdman are not strangers to race fans in EC4WDA Region B/Atlantic. They've raced more than once at Line Mountain's famous 7-Miler. In fact they are members of the association. Jared lives in Shamokin (real Line Mountain territory) and Josh hails from Klingsertown, Pennsylvania.

As a fitting tribute to years of hard work in off-road racing, Josh and co-driver Jared captured first place in the most grueling off-road desert race in the world, winning "King Of The Hammers", February 8th in southern California's Means Dry Lake at Johnson Valley. Billed as the "ultimate desert race", "King Of The Hammers" is a demanding 495-mile race, consisting of 3/165 mile laps, combining rock crawling and high speed desert racing. In this year's race, 105 competitors started. Only 43 survived the race that combines speeds of nearly 100 mph in open areas with technical rock crawling, possible with gear ratios of 100 to 1. Their Ultra4 machines are engineering works of art, capable of severe punishment.

Josh and Jad's time was 7 hours and 6 minutes. Erik Miller, another familiar name to Line Mountain fans, from Cumberland Maryland, finished second, 16 minutes behind the winners. Josh's Dad, Rusty Blyler, DNF. He was on his second lap, 4 hours and 31 minutes into the race. And yet another Region B racer, Chad Owens, EC4WDA Rules Chairman, finished the race in the 21st spot, 10 hours and 14 minutes.

All of the EC4WDA racers had been there before. This "King Of The Hammers" race was Josh's 4th, having finished 11th in 2019, 4th in 2018 and 6th in 2017. Chad finished 73rd in 2019, while Miller was 2nd in 2019, 2nd in 2018, 4th in 2017, 1st in 2016 and 2nd in 2015.

NEW REGION C CHAIR MIKE LOWE REPORTING

By Mike Lowe
EC4WDA Region C Chair

Hi everyone. My name is Michael Lowe, member of P.O.W./M.I.A. Racing Team. I'm taking the place of Tommy Eaton as Region C Chairperson. Do not know if any of you remember me. I was Rules Chairman back in 1999 to 2002.

I've been sitting on the sidelines watching EC4WDA and I have some ideas I would like to see through.

The association is not the same as what I grew up with. We have all forgotten we are a family of racers, Jeep lovers and trail riders. We are all just trying to have fun.

"Gravelrama49" Official Results

"GRAVELRAMA49"
Sanctioned EC4WDA Region C
Cleveland, Ohio
August 21-22-23-24-25-26, 2019
IOK 4-Wheelers
Official Results

THURS. BRACKET FLAT DRAGS

QUICK8

4-way split:

Andrew Meyer, Mike King, Cody Trice, Rodney Upchurch

FAST BRACKET

Rebecca Boyce, David Cregar

SLOW BRACKET

Ryan Wilson, Stacey Pressley

UPHILLS / OPEN

H Mike Tally, Bob Ford

F Terry Collins, Brian Campbell

I Sean Foidr, Tim Daily

J Mike Thomas

XXA Dustin Smith, Darren Smith

A Brian Harrison, Rodney Upchurch

XXB Andrew Meyer, Mike King

C Dylan Cregar, Rob Houseman

E John Brown, Missie Simmerman

XB Tony Monnig, Andrew Burcham

B Andy James, Butch Cregar

XA Larry Monnig, Tina Olszewski

XC Rodney Upchurch, Richard Harney

XXC Ryan Kerr, Sarah Stovall

D Michael Robbins, Dan Stansberry

XD Cody Trice, Jon Broady

G Ray Campbell, Eric Reuther

XXD John Traynor, Logan Blades

SM Aaron Korner, Jeff Simpson

FLAT DRAGS / OPEN

C2 Trevor Gronefeld, Tim Hall

F2 Seth Cude, Damian Bowers

F3 Bill Butts, Jim Gupton

F4 Casey Kaiser, Rebecca Boyce

SM Aaron Korner, Jeff Simpson

J Mike Thomas, Mark Brady

C Dylan Cregar, Jamie Wallick

I Bobby Howell, Sean Ford

B Rick Weber, Andy James

XXD John Traynor, JR Calvert

H Mike Tally, Bob Ford

F Brian Campbell, Lynn Reuther

A Brian Harrison, Rodney Upchurch

XXB Andrew Meyer, Mike King

G Sean Ford, Terry Mutchler

XD Jim Rhodus, Cody Trice

XXA Burt Val Bennekom, Joe Gomey

XC Rodney Upchurch, Ryan Kerr

E John Brown, Sandy Crosby

XB Dan Wies, Austim Bullock

XXC Ryan Kerr, Richard Harney

D Michael Robbins, Joe Reuther

XA Tina Olszewski, Larry Monnig, Jr.



Jim Rhodus' Jeep Selected as "Gravelrama49" Best Engineered

BOB BLACK ELIMINATOR

Ryan Kerr, Dylan Cregar

JUNIORS

Carson Combs, Lindsey Bare

PEEWEEES

Blayne Mullins, Cooper Sullivan

FLAT DRAGS / WOMEN

C2 Kelly Meyer, Kim Shanks

F3 David Butts, Sandy Stone

F4 LaDonna Kaiser, Melissa Lynd

C JoAnn Reuther, Lisa Reuther

I Kayla Bolte, Angel Howell

B Steph Reuther, Amanda Benevengo

XXC Rebecca Boyce, Katie Stovall

H Amanda Dumford

A Beth Zwick, Ahston Wilson

XD Ashton Wilson, Carol Mousa

XXA Kasi Powell, Ashton Wilson

XB Kay Dreher, Kim Sullivan

D Britney Sturgill

F Missie Simmerman, Karen Rinehardt

OBSTACLE / OPEN

A Duane Zaugg, Larry Kuhns

B Justin Zaugg, Doug Reuther

C Chad Steiner, Ken Rinehardt

D Sean Ford, Terry Mutchler

E Jariel Dumford

F Justin Metcalf, Jamie Wallick

G Mike Thomas, Mark Brady

H Sean Ford, Caleb Zaugg

OBSTACLE / WOMEN

B JoAnn Reuther

C Karen Rinehardt

E Amanda Dumford, Anna Zaugg

F Kayla Bolte, Angel Howell

I Lisa Zaugg

JERRY ZAUGG ELIMINATOR

Lisa Zaugg, Justin Metcalf

ELIMINATOR HILL/OPEN

A Rebecca Boyce, Ryan Wilson

B Josh Berling, Butch Cregar

C Dylan Cregar, Rob Houseman

D Jacob Cutright, Joe Reuther

E Wayne Gunter, John Brown

F Brian Campbell,, Lynn Reuther

G Eric Reuther, Ray Campbell

H Mike Tally, Bob Ford

I Bobby Howell, Courtney Berling

J Mike Thomas, Mark Brady

XA Larry Monnig, Jr.

XB Austin Bullock, Tony Monnig

XC Daniel Sizemore, Randy Thornton

XD Jason Wolnitzek, Randy Dowd

XXA Braden Cole, Ryan Wilson

XXB Nathan Sneed, Cody Gum

XXC Ryan Keller, Terry HollingsworthIII

XXD Bub Balsley, Tyrone Short

HIS & HERS TROPHY

Doug & JoAnne Reuther

BEST ENGINEERED RACER

Jim Rhodus

FLAT DRAGS BEST REACTION

TIME

Lance Kaiser .404

FAST TIMES DRAG STRIP

2WD MALE

Burt VanBennekom 3.099

2WD FEMALE

Kathy Ellington 3.466

4WD MALE

Dan Wies 3.338

4WD FEMALE

Tina Olszewski 3.517

FAST TIME OBSTACLE COURSE

FEMALE - Kayla Bolte 240.34

MALE - Caleb Zaugg 223.07

"BIG T" WINNERS

Show Me 4X4

working our way back to the cabin. We followed Matt and ended up back to Camp Woodshed. The trail ride was officially over but Kirk was able to convince Matt West that he could

LEGENDARY PEA GRAVEL RETURNED TO THE "BIG ELIM"

By Scrambler Express

In a grand gesture, Ken Reinhardt, upon returning home from Gravelrama49, discovered about 8-10 pounds of pea gravel in his rear paddle tire from the Big Eliminator Hill. He packaged it nicely in a coffee container and returned the gravel to Toby and Jannie Kelly at the Region C fall meeting in October.

The plan, of course, was to return the gravel to Sharon Rolfes, the event's chairperson. That happened at I.O.K.'s December club meeting.

Sharon has returned the gravel to its rightful place, back on the big hill.

Just think of all the gravel that has been hauled out of that place in the nearly 50 years of its existence.



Sharon Rolfes

CHC WINTER TRAIL RIDE

get his stock Grand Cherokee to climb the steep hillside back to the cabin rather than taking the road. Matt made several attempts to get up the hill and got almost to the top. His last attempt of backing down off the hill found him sliding off the side and into some small trees and he was stuck. We had to break out the winch for the first time of the day. Robin pulled her jeep up to offer the use of a winch and Kirk with the help of Andy got the job done. Once back in the cabin we determined the winner of the poker hands to be Matt West. We headed out to Perma Stone INN for dinner. If you ever go there make sure you are hungry or plan on sharing your

sandwich with somebody!!! After we got stuffed with food we went back to the cabin and relaxed. Some of us decided we need more poker time and played some friendly hands of poker.

Sunday morning we cleaned up the camp and packed up to head home. Of course Kirk had to sneak in one more quick side adventure before heading down the road and then ended up losing a trans cooler line and losing a bunch of fluid. He was able to repair the line and added the 2 qts of fluid he had with him but it wasn't enough to fill the trans. Thankfully the rescue squad showed up and went out to get some more trans fluid for him. We are already looking forward to next year's trip.



CHC convoy moving aside for snowmobilers



Andy is stuck (Really?) and CHC help arrives!

I.O.K. LIASION FOR EC4WDA 50TH HAS A REPORT ON THE AWESOME CELEBRATION!!

By Toby Kelly

I.O.K. Member / Region C

Well, I'm not much of an author, but here goes.

I want to express my gratitude to all that pitched in to make the EC4WDA 50th Anniversary Race such a success. From the IOK members shutting down their contracted jobs and moving their trucks, manpower and equipment to the pits the previous week to replace the rented equipment that was destroyed the day before it was to be delivered to the pits, to the volunteers that spent their time cleaning up after everyone had gone home.

It was overwhelming to see the EC4WDA members who showed up on Monday and Tuesday to help wherever there was a need. Also, big thanks for the EC members that manned the gate from Tuesday through Sunday.

Wherever you looked there were new and old friends doing whatever needed done to make the race run smooth regardless of what club or region they were from.

I can't thank the competitors enough for hauling their toys from a half mile or over a thousand to put on a great show. I believe every class or bracket had good, close racing. We even had some competitors install their "Gravelrama" motors for the event.

There were a total of 171 competitors come through inspection Wednesday though Sunday, although not all could stay for all 4 days of competition. We had 105 compete over the weekend. Big thanks to the Tech Crew for their time and effort into making our vehicles some of the safest of any organized 4 wheel competitive events.

Did I mention it was HOT!! Nothing like temperatures in the 90's and 80% humidity in the pits. There were friends passing out water to the drivers and workers throughout the event. Speaking of water, hats off to the water truck crews that somehow kept the dust to a minimum. I heard no complaints from anyone in staging for any of the events. Big thanks out to those that pitched in. It was an awesome group effort. The announcers somehow kept all the time slots filled and kept everyone informed. The timing crew struggled with our new

lights on the uphill Friday and a little on Saturday. It turned out that the problem was the "tree" would work on the starting line. but not when installed just ten (10) feet up the hill. They finally ran the race from a truck cab in the bowl. An inexpensive antenna solved our problem. (The total system is state of the art "wireless") It is almost always an inexpensive part that fails and alters the race.

Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my friends that donated their time, equipment and manpower to make the event possible.

The most enjoyable part of the event for me personally was the time, brief as it was, to spend visiting with friends, both new and old that I do not ordinarily get to see but only once a year. To those who were not able to attend, we missed you but understand today's world of demands on your time. Looking forward to making new memories with my EC4WDA family.

We are very actively working on "Gravelrama50" to make it as special as we can for our racers, campers and spectators alike. I'd personally like to invite everyone to come help us celebrate, August 26-31, 2020. Plan now, make reservations as soon as you can.

AN ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE 50TH EVENT

By Brian Campbell

Member U.S. Mules / Region B

I wanted to send all a note regarding the 50th Anniversary Race, 4th of July weekend at I.O.K. in Cleves. Both my father and myself thought it was a terrific event, full of camaraderie and collaboration between Region B and Region C.

The events were well organized and while there were some hiccups with lights and such, we do race off-road and these are to be expected from time to time.

The amount of work that went into the planning and execution of the celebration shows, just how many events were fit into the long holiday weekend. Having everything from trail riding to competition racing was fantastic as it truly went back to the roots of our organization, having something there for everyone to enjoy off-road. The laughing and story telling from days of old, and

how "it used to be" was refreshing and made me realize I may be older than I think I am because I can relate to several of the "glory days" stories myself.

I personally would like to thank everyone that made the event happen, both from Region B and Region C, as it was truly a collaborative event and showed how no matter which region you are from, we are all still East Coast 4-Wheel Drive Association members. I hope to be around in 50 years for the centennial event, and expect it to be as much fun as this one was.

RICHARD GORDON AWARD GOES TO "BUBBA" WILSON

EC4WDA Region C's annual award dedicated to Richard Gordon's memory, and given to a recipient having displayed a winning sportsmanship stature, went to RAM member "Bubba" (Mike) Wilson, of Piner, Kentucky, last year.

He has been active for many years in EC4WDA and has maintained a goal encouraging everyone to go race and have fun, an all out effort on a budget. If you

haven't had the opportunity to observe him on the obstacle course, you have missed a show. During "Gravelrama" last year in tech inspection, a search was initiated, and unsuccessfully, for a 3" square on his Jeep without a dent.

He does his thing behind the scenes for the betterment of the sport. It doesn't matter if it is buying the marshmallows and crackers for Smores or providing the wood for the kids campfires at Jr. races, whatever needs to be done, he is there to

offer his help.

To make last year's 50th Anniversary at Cleves for the association even more special, he went out, on his own and purchased a huge display of fireworks, providing entertainment for the kids and adults alike.

He has his own, unsanctioned event each fall known as "Bubba Fest" which has really expanded over many years.

His hard work and dedication to all areas of our sport provides a shining hope for our future.

THE STORY OF A HALF-CENTURY OF EC4WDA

Let's be clear. The only truthful, complete history of middle America's initial experiment with organized four wheeling goes back beyond the 50 year mark to the beginning of World War II, to the birth of the Army's reconnaissance vehicle (later aptly named the "Jeep"). The real story begins in Butler, Pennsylvania, where a small vehicle manufacturer, Bantam, was approached by the Army to bid (Willys-Overland and Ford bid as well) to develop a small vehicle the Army could utilize on the battlefield in all sorts of work. Bantam was the low bidder. The story goes Bantam developed plans for a small, four-wheel-drive vehicle in five days and eventually built some prototypes. When the Army realized Bantam, with limited production capacity, could not even come close to producing what the Army had in mind as far as numbers were concerned, Army obtained and gave the drawings that were developed by Bantam to Willys-Overland and Ford, who developed prototypes of their design. Both manufacturers produced 1500 prototypes each and eventually Willys-Overland got the big contract and Ford, as well, produced their version of the Jeep for the war effort. At this point the vehicle was described as a "general purpose" vehicle. GP! And, from that apt moniker evolved the name "Jeep" Bantam wasn't left entirely in the dark. They did produce the two-wheeled trailer you always seemed to see behind a Jeep during wartime, some 70,000 of them.

Interestingly enough, both Butler, Pennsylvania and Toledo, Ohio today claim their communities as the "birthplace" of the Jeep. You can be the judge of that.

Following the war, returning veterans, enamored with the Jeep, convinced Willys to begin a domestic version of the Jeep. And, so begins the journey of the popular CJ, or in the vernacular, "civilian Jeep". The Jeep was a good seller for Willys and soon they were all over the place. Clubs were formed of Jeep owners and since "they could go anywhere", the Jeep was an enormous recreational tool for families. What came to be "trail riding" began with Jeep devotees and their families participating in outings on public lands, especially national and state forests who maintained trails. Soon, the more adventurous, perhaps daring as well, Jeep enthusiasts would stage "Jeep races". Bingo.

The adventure into racing began in the early 60's and at that point it was almost all Jeeps. It quickly became very obvious that some discipline had to be instilled into what appeared to be a burgeoning sport. And the clubs kinda took charge. Afterall, they were staging the races on rented grounds, and in some cases, their own properties. Safety became a major concern, not only for the competitor, but the spectator as well. Another sticking point was running rules. At this point, in the late 60's, cooler heads prevailed and talk began of forming an association to which clubs could belong. The idea, of course, was to bring some kind of organization to a growing, unregulated sport, where "anything went". Three clubs stepped up and eventually had their initial meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Sixteen men attended the exploratory meeting, and they drew up the 1969 competition rules. The man in charge was George Dudiak, a Jeoper from Pittsburgh, who, aside from his regular job, was also a musician who played in big bands in the Pittsburgh area. The three clubs were Triangle Four Wheelers of Pittsburgh, Allegheny Four Wheelers of Franklin, Pennsylvania and Tri-County Four Wheelers of Lisbon, Ohio. The latter, a big club with their own grounds, Tri-County had been in the racing business since 1966 and was drawing big crowds to their rodeos. Triangle had their first East Coast Four-Wheel-O-Rama at Wellsboro, Pennsylvania in 1965.

The first official meeting of the new association was a bit later in the year in State College, Pennsylvania, when all known eastern clubs were asked to send representatives. The new association, the East Coast Four Wheel Drive Association, was formed in late 1969 and was incorporated as a Pennsylvania corporation.

THE EARLY YEARS

Early on, things were rather hectic. There was the running, classification rules by the Rules Committee, the stringent Sanctioning Rules that spoke to spectator safety at an event. If your club couldn't comply with the Sanctioning, then you couldn't host a Sanctioned event. At that time, an unsanctioned event was rare. Almost all events were Sanctioned and proved to be safe. The development of the running and classification rules were perhaps the most difficult times during the early years. Rules meetings were contentious, downright ugly at times. Those who were involved at the time remember the weekend at Brookville, Pennsylvania, when arguments were so intense that at one point during the weekend meetings a door to a rules 13-man committee meeting was torn off its hinges so the protestors could gain admittance and be heard. It wasn't pretty. (EC4WDA bought a new door) But the rules in general, both sanctioning and running, were the envy of every other large association in the sport and served EC4WDA well.

Growth was rapid. From that three-club base, by 1975, when Tri-County's Jim Donaldson was President and Jo Ann Brown was Secretary, the association had grown to 43 clubs, the largest of which was Westmoreland County in Pennsylvania with 199 member families.

Geography was a problem. The association was enormous, covering a lot of states and making attendance at important meetings a challenge. A young man by the name of Tucker Cope, EC4WDA President in 1975-76 and 76-77 decided to propose an option for the association; regionalization. The association was split into two parts, east and west. Region B to the east and Region A to the west. By 1978, EC4WDA had grown to 61 clubs with over 2,500 families and had expanded their activity beyond the track. Additional purposes included protection and increase of natural resources, support and sponsor all off road activities, encourage safe driving, form emergency assistance groups and to assist authorities to further these aims.

Following the initial regionalization, which worked well in easing travel problems for clubs to attend meetings, Bob Evans, a four wheeler from Massillon, Ohio and a member of Tri-County some 40 miles away, lobbied for a third region and this came to pass in 1981 when Region A was split at the Pennsylvania / Ohio line. East of the line remained Region A and West of the line became Region C. So, by 1981, EC4WDA was a three-region entity and this eased travel problems as well as incentivising growth. By 1981, the association had grown to over 80 clubs with a staggering membership of over 4,000 families. For those who might need to know,

the line separating Region A and Region B was (and still is) 78 degrees longitude.

At this point, not only had the association grown significantly, so had competition. Notable things were happening in Region C with the emergence of Zanesville, Ohio's Hilltoppers, a large club about 50 miles east of Columbus. The race site was a great piece of property (they did not own) called Granger Hill in South Zanesville and their competitive program was awesome. They enjoyed a high level of support from the Zanesville business community, including the Pepsi-Cola distributor and the beer distributor, Matesich. Their award purses were significant and their races enjoyed the unbridled support of race fans. With IOK's big, nationally recognized event, "Gravelrama", and Region B's busy schedule of sanctioned events, as well as Region A in western Pennsylvania, things were going very well for what was considered America's second-largest 4WD association. California Association of 4WD Clubs was and still is number one.

And they continued that way throughout the 80's for EC4WDA, without a doubt the zenith of success. Leadership took a twist and turn in the mid-80's when Jerry Schwartz was elected President in 1985. Prior, leadership had served two terms with the exception of Darrell Brown and Lee Bonawitz. Schwartz ended up serving eight terms and incorporated the support of IOK's icon "Sugar" Fields to the board. She single-handedly transformed the annual conventions into spectaculars, attracting more than 250 members each fall. The conventions also took on the aura of annual recognition for jobs well done among the membership, both at an association level as well as regional.

In 1986, there was some consternation concerning stock classes and the general feeling that the rules people were not giving them a fair shake. In 1987, the stockers were permitted to run sanctioned events. Norwalk's Faith Price was Region C Chair and Barry Kellerman was Region B leader. In the Jeep world, there was shock and dismay among Jeepers concerning the demise of the CJ and the news that the YJ would replace it and would be assembled in Canada. The Toledo AMC plant would be producing Wagoneers and Cherokees, both of which were in high demand.

We boasted of 62 clubs and 1700 member families in 1987 and in the following year we began conversations with Great Lakes in an attempt to align both our running and safety rules to encourage inter-association competition.

In 1989, EC4WDA's 20th Anniversary took place in Lisbon, called the ABC event. Our membership strength continued to slip; 60 clubs and 1400 families.

At the 1990 convention, Tom and Ethel Darling received the President's Award while Sugar Fields was the Pappy Fry recipient.

In the early 1990's, all the talk revolved around United Four Wheel Drive Associations. We had been on board since the beginning and our Diane Evans (Massillon, Ohio and member of Tri-County) was an early President of the national organization. The executive board was not pleased with United's business practices and their annual insistence of raising dues. Our annual contribution at this point was about \$3,500. and we found the investment to be without merit. It was no secret how we as an association felt. United's President Randy Meusling visited our convention in the fall of 1992 and gave a speech to the delegate gathering. At this point, for some reason, we had been dropped from United's roster without explanation and the issue was if we were going to rejoin in 1994. We hosted a United meeting in Baltimore and President Schwartz, in an address to the delegates, gave a blistering account of where we stood on the issue of being a part of the United family. He received little support for our stance. As things developed, we never did rejoin United and other regional associations followed our lead. One of our biggest complaints, and far from the only one, was United's stance on regional associations, which they felt were too big and covered too much territory. They were in favor of "state" associations and their goal was to break up the large regionals such as us and Pacific-Northwest, Southern, etc. Obviously we did not accept such a plan and a vote of the EC4WDA delegate body at the 1993 annual convention yielded an 85% plurality to not rejoin United.

It was about this time we began investigating the possibility of a southern region (Kentucky and Tennessee). This had been attempted in the 70's without much luck and we did recruit one club, the Central Kentucky 4-Wheelers of Lexington. In the end, it didn't work and no further attempts were made.

In 1994, we began the yearly involvement in jamborees, namely Lima, Ohio, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania and one in the northeast where our Region D was located. It was very hard to measure the results of the jamborees. And, it was about this time we, in conjunction with the California association, began the creation of the "Great American 4WD Council, an organization consisting of regional 4WD associations as well as others in the business of motorized recreation. The concept was a creation of President Schwartz.

In 1995 we welcomed our fifth region into the fold, Region E / Niagara. Our competitive membership had been declining for a number of years and the addition of recreational clubs as represented by our new regions, D and E, increased our roster total so that the losses we experienced were a wash with the addition of the new regions. Regions D and E were strictly recreational, trail riding clubs. In April of 1997, the association lost its biggest benefactor, Tom Kennedy, when he passed away due to complications of cancer caused by his early years work in the field of asbestos. Tom created one of the sports biggest mail order firms, Four Wheel Drive Hardware, in Columbiana, Ohio. He was a member of Tri-County where his generosity knew no limits and he financially supported the association's milestone anniversary events.

Additionally in 1997, we adopted the junior racing program that had been developed and utilized by the ASRO (American Sand Racing Organization) group. A successful program, it proved to be the same for us and brought the children of the sport into the competitive world their parents enjoyed. It was probably one of the smartest moves we had ever made and is still paying dividends to this day. Also in the 90's, we began experimenting with the 2-wheel-drive aspect of our racing. Prior, there was only one option available; four-wheel-drive. Period. It was centered in XA class and received the designation XXA. A minimum number was required to make a class since the XXA's could not compete against 4WD classes, excepting eliminators which typically ran bracket and featured class winners. Also, it was an option the host clubs could either accept or reject in their sanctioned races.

In May of 1998, national leaders in motorized recreation came together in Kansas City for an important organizational meeting of NAMRC, North American Motorized Recreation Council, the organization stemming from the "Great American 4WD Council" as

proposed by EC4WDA. The name was changed to include more than 4X4. It exists to this day and meets annually in Las Vegas. Later in the same year, Sugar Fields and EC4WDA were honored by SEMA in Vegas during their annual November show. Recognition was given in honor of EC4WDA and Sugar for outstanding effort to promote SEMA Action Network goals at national 4X4 events and on the internet.

The founding partner of EC4WDA's first president, George Dudiak, Betty Ruth Dudiak, passed away May 18th, 1999

THE NEW CENTURY

The turn of the new century brought new leadership. Barry Kellerman, who had served as President Schwartz's vice president for so many years moved into the president's position and brought with him a new vp, Steve Forrester and they are in those positions today. Both are from Pennsylvania and have been 4WD veterans for many years. The new century also brought more two-wheel-drive activity to the forefront. The rules committee, sensing success in the trial activity of XXA two-wheel-drive and an opportunity to attract 2WD veterans from asphalt, created a 2WD division for sanctioned races. It didn't apply to the letter classes; only the X classes and the prefix was XXA, XXB, etc. and is still the case today.

In 2003, veteran four wheeler Bill Minich, Region A, a leader in the sport, resident of Emlenton, Pennsylvania and an ardent supporter and worker, passed away. In the early years, the mostly Jeep years, the single roll bar was the standard and common. Bill didn't buy the then current opinion the single roll bar provided the safety demanded as the speeds picked up in all aspects of the sport. He was an ardent advocate of the "roll cage" and hammered home the opinion that the rules body of the association must legislate the necessity of mandatory roll cages. He eventually won out as the rules body followed his lead. Bill served on the rules committee for over 20 years. He also was asked to work with the Great Lakes association on a possible "meshing" of both rules structures so that we could have inter-association events based on a single set of running rules. After several years of meetings, it failed due to complexities stemming from the fact our rules structure embodied a much higher number of classes than did Great Lakes. However, Bill left an enduring footprint of what we do to this day. Our membership at this time stood at 1,503 families.

In 2004, we celebrated our 35th anniversary with a very successful weekend at Lisbon. And we experienced what it was like to not have Ken and Sugar Fields around. The night before they were to leave for Lisbon and the 35th, Ken suffered a debilitating stroke and was hospitalized. What we didn't realize at the time was the fact neither would be involved in the sport they both loved so much any longer. It was a devastating loss for EC4WDA and even more so for their home club and signature event, IOK's "Gravelrama". Sugar had devoted every waking moment to the development and nurturing of "Gravelrama" from its beginning and her involvement in EC4WDA from 1985 forward was an unbelievable run. She was also involved in the sport on a national level. Ken passed away in 2009 and Sugar did as well a few days before her beloved "Gravel" in 2014.

In 2005, Sheri Hunt won the Pappy Fry. The article in the East Coaster at the time described her as "Dedicated. Loyal. Consistent. Loves Purple". Aside from winning more than any human's share of competitive trophies, she served on the Sanctioning Committee and she did not take any prisoners. On the question of sanctioning, she was insistent on the host club crossing every t and dotting every i. Never accepted a halfway answer and more than once shut an event down for sanctioning shortcomings.

The Pappy Fry was won by a husband and wife team, Duane and Canda Boatman of Pine Creek. Another team, Ray and Mary Kamp won Region B high points in Open and Women's divisions respectively in 2006.

In 2007, in September, an odd thing happened. Two competitors, one from C and the other from B, who both competed in A Class, and who both had blue race vehicles, suffered accidents on the drag strip and both rolled mid-air; on the 8th, Rusty Searl's "Indian Uprising" and on the 23rd, Ron Spodar's "Cleveland Offroad". Both, at the time, were seasoned veterans with many years in the sport. Searl repaired and returned to competition. Spodar did not.

In 2008, Tri-County 4-Wheelers celebrated their 45th Anniversary. The Party was on their grounds, August 2-3, featuring a catered buffet. The SUV Adventure Club staged their 4th Annual Road Rally / Food Drive raising over \$700. and nearly 400 items of food to benefit the local food bank in Ravenna, Ohio. Pappy Fry winner was Mike Klotz, Region B. And, Region C failed to muster a quorum, for the very first time, at their fall delegate meeting.

In 2009, Region B staged their first "Legends From Back In The Day, a hugely popular (500 attended) event which featured a Saturday night dinner. It was also held in conjunction with an (ns) old-timers race and a sanctioned Region B race. Regan Hermany was the idea man and the doer. Earlier in the year the association celebrated it's 40th Anniversary with a well-attended sanctioned race in Somerset, Pennsylvania. Firelands, Region C, lost their grounds and the opportunity to stage sanctioned events for which they had done for about 35-years. Their last race was in June.

2010 EC4WDA founder George Dudiak passed away. He was also the first president. He lived in Penn Hills in greater Pittsburgh and was a member of the Triangle 4-Wheelers of Pittsburgh. He died one day before his 87th birthday.

The inaugural "Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival took place August 12-14 in Butler, Pennsylvania, 2011. EC4WDA, in the coming years of the festival, would be participating in a large fashion, producing the "Jeep Team Challenge" event. Fred & Nancy Garneau were surprised, as were all of the fall convention crowd, when President Barry honored the Michigan couple with the "Pioneer Award" for their many years of service to EC4WDA and their service to handling the junior racing program in Region C. The President's Award went to hard-working Cathy Klotz, Region B.

Obstacle course devotees were saddened to learn of the passing of Jerry Zaugg, "Grasshopper" owner and driver who astounded crowds for many years at "Gravelrama" with his daring obstacle course driving, following his appearance 2012. He passed away little more than a week after racing. Region C's Don Smith was awarded the Pappy Fry. Bryan Rensi, hard-working advocate for inter-regional activity, received the President's Award.

The association got involved big time by agreeing to host and produce (spell: work) the popular Jeep Team Challenge at the Third Annual Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival, June 14-16, 2013. It was to be the first in an ongoing project for the association. Led by

Region B's Cathy Klotz and Region A's Mark McCall, plus more than 20 EC4WDA members comprising the working team, our involvement continues to this day and spreads the word of EC4WDA all over the place. In 2014's "Gravelrama", it became very obvious that the big machines were going faster. So fast, in fact, they were bordering on the three second mark. That translated into about 120 MPH at the finish line.

During the 2014 fall convention, Ed McKillip, EC4WDA Trail Boss, and probably the quietest board member, received the coveted President's Award from President Barry Kellerman, followed by a spontaneous, standing ovation. Now, history will show that didn't happen, if ever, in past awards. The Pappy Fry went to Cathy Klotz, Region B. She joins husband Mike (2008) and father-in-law Clair (2001) as the third Klotz to receive the award. The association celebrated its 45th birthday with a sanctioned anniversary event over the Labor Day weekend in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, home of Susquehannocks as well as Jersey Shore. Turnout was somewhat disappointing. The association recognized Sugar Fields for her nearly 40 years of service to organized four wheeling with an award at the convention. Health issues prevented Sugar from attending but her magnificent glass award, labeling her as the "First Lady Of Four Wheeling" was given to her in her home by Toby and Jannie Kelly, following the convention. Kay Dreher, member of Show Me 4X4, won the Bob Black Eliminator at Gravelrama44.

Saddled with rapidly declining health, four wheeling's icon, Sugar Fields, passed away just a few days before "Gravelrama45", August, 2015. Tri-County 4-Wheelers, one of the three clubs who formed EC4WDA in 1969, decided to leave the association.

2016. Talk was beginning concerning the 50th anniversary of the association. The committee was seeking proposals from clubs who wished to host the event. Event chairs were announced: Brad Shoff, Sr. and Steve Forrester. Rules changes were announced concerning the introduction of UTV's and buggies, certainly a long way from 1969 when Jeeps were the only concern. Actually, the introduction of aforementioned vehicles began in 2015. Pappy Fry winner? Toby Kelly, who in 2016 had accumulated some 43 years in the sport. "One Of Our Own" fund reported two (2) requests for the year. I.O.K. Four Wheelers celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Interesting rule change came about in 2017. Quote: "All automatic transmissions must have a dipstick that cannot become dislodged in the case of an accident. The dipstick can be safety-wired (metal wire only) or a locking dipstick may be used". The association, thanks to some detective work by Cathy Klotz, found that we can get back into the raffle (spell fund-raising) business. The rules are stringent but workable. We had not been raffling Jeeps for several years because of the tough rules concerning games of chance in Pennsylvania. It was announced the 50th anniversary event would be held at I.O.K. over the July 4th weekend, 2019.

The association got back into the raffle (fund-raising) business in a classy fashion by purchasing a RZR that will be awarded in the fall of 2019. Rick Weber brought home the bacon at the 2018 convention with the Pappy Fry trophy. The East Coaster ran "thank you" notes from "One Of Our Own" fund recipients. Names, of course, were withheld but the notes were heart warming and lent a realistic view into how important this ongoing project of ours means to people who really need help. Columbia Hill Climbers celebrated their 50th birthday. President's Award went to Brad Shoff, Sr.

VINTAGE BRONCO RACERS HIGHLITE 2019 SEMA SHOW

The Ford Motor Company, in an effort to hype their coming introduction of a new Bronco, brought ten (10) well-known vintage Bronco racers to the 2019 SEMA show in Las Vegas in November. Two of those trucks were EC4WDA Region B competitors.

Top photo is Ray and Mary Kamp's "JOKER". Built in 1985, the 1972 Bronco has a combined 7-time 1st Place Overall Championships in Open competition with top-10 finishes every year 1990-2000. It has a CMS racing engine w/Ford GTP heads, Ford 9-inch spooled rear axle and a Dana posi front axle, Rancho front springs & shocks, Trailmaster rear shocks & custom rear traction bars. The Kamps are members of County Line Rough Riders and reside in Kempton, Pennsylvania.

The lower photo is the Martin Brother's Racing Team 1967 Ford Bronco built by owner and driver Marc Martin and brother Bob in the home garage. It has raced since the 1999 build. Running 34-inch Interco Super Swamper tires, Ford F-150 rear leaf springs & dual Bilstein external reservoir shocks on all four corners, the Bronco's power is a 5.8 liter Windsor V8 that feeds the Ford 9-inch rear axle with a 4.11 spool and a 4.11 - geared open Dana 44 front axle. It still has the original steel body. From Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, the brothers are members of the Delaware 4-Wheelers, EC4WDA Region B.

