

Northern Lights

Volume 1, Issue Number 2 May 1998

Inside this Newsletter

Presidents Message

Wayne Groom

*Where we are & Ontario's Living
Legacy*

Corporate Sponsorship

Update

Len Bink

New Logo for NL 4x4

Brenda Hackett

Ontario's Drive Clean Program

What's the scoop?

Cory Sanderson & John Carroll

UFWDA

First Delegates report

John Carroll

**Note* Annual General Meeting date
set for October 17th 1999. Mark
your calendars.**

Disclaimer: This newsletter is published by The Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders Association, PO Box 14, Ingersoll, Ontario, N5C 3K1. The comments and opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Association, Directors of the Association, or sponsors.

You can contact us at the address given or call 416-444-8231 and leave a message, we'll get back to you. Or send us an email at nl4x4@ibm.net. Letters to the editor and submissions for the newsletters may be edited for context and space allotment. Published three times per year.

President's Message

Where we are:

Northern Lights continues to grow, pretty much as we had hoped. I'm just going to give you a quick summary of things that have

happened since the last newsletter at the beginning of the year.

- We have welcomed the Border City Jeep Club, Eastern Ontario Trailblazers and The Southern Ontario Dirt Drivers to Northern Lights.
- Our Charter Membership list continues to grow and we now have several corporate sponsors on board. These are listed elsewhere in the newsletter and I would like to thank them for their support.
- Our web site came up perhaps a little later than we had hoped but now continues to evolve. We are quite proud of our new logo that will set the format for future newsletters and stationary. New decals should be available in the not too distant future.
- Northern Light's membership in the UFWDA has been renewed. I was very pleased that Nyle Hillson, who was recently elected Vice President of United, is our representative Board Member at United. I mentioned in our last newsletter that Nyle and his wife, Joyce, have been very supportive of our efforts.
- We have joined Tread Lightly! Canada. We look forward to working with TLC to further promote its principles and programs.
- While in North Carolina this spring I met with the President of the East Coast Four Wheel Drive Association; Jerry Schwartz. We talked briefly of some interesting programs that he is involved in and I hope to stay in touch and find out more. Being the *rookie* on the block I think that we can learn from the folks who have been doing this for a while.
- Thus far this year we have had regular contact with the Minister of Natural Resources in an effort to be recognized as a credible user group. These efforts continued through the election and will continue with the new government.

Northern Lights

- We plan to have Northern Lights

represented at a meeting of the Canadian All Terrain Vehicle Association being held in Mattawa in the coming weeks. This is a group that represents all vehicular users including snowmobiles and ATVs.

- We held our first General Meeting and we were fortunate enough to have the use of a large meeting room at DaimlerChrysler for the afternoon. The meeting went very well with many good questions. There was also a presentation about the Ontario Drive clean Program by the Ministry of the Environment Staff member which everyone quite enjoyed. The date of our first AGM has been set for October 17th, 1999 with location to follow.

ONTARIO'S LIVING LEGACY

Meanwhile back in the political arena the government has evolved the Lands for Life program into what is now called "Ontario's Living Legacy"

(<http://www.mnr/gov.on.ca/MNR/oll/>). I thought that the Government did a masterful job of quelling a hot issue just before an election. They brought members of industry (forestry, mining and tourism) and environmentalists together and managed to cobble together a compromise.

From what I understand initially all the groups walked away happy with the conclusions. Unfortunately our representation as four wheelers is not clear but I assume that we were lumped in with snowmobiles and ATVs under that banner of tourism.

It seems that we may not have a lot to worry about and that we will maintain the access we have to current "roads" and trails. We have yet to clearly hear this though and one of the objectives of Northern Lights is to understand where we fit in with this plan.

There was an article in the Toronto Star recently stating that some of the

leaders of the environmentalist groups were crying foul, saying that they were duped and blindsided by the government because it was now telling the loggers and miners that it was business as usual.

One thing that is becoming clear is that the government is turning more and more control of this land to regional authorities. In anticipation of this, we must keep our ear to the ground and seek opportunities to build relationships with these communities. We must continue to promote organized four wheeling as a growing tourism opportunity, an off-season activity to snowmobiling.

I think the real key will be the posturing of the new government towards these issues and unfortunately I don't think public land use was raised often enough, if at all, throughout the election campaign. As we start what promises to be a great season of four-wheeling please remember the Tread Lightly! principles and show, by good example, that this is a responsible, family oriented activity that has a future in Ontario.

**Wayne Groom President Northern
Lights 4x4 Trailriders
Association**



**Official Logo of Northern
Lights 4x4 Trailriders
Association**

Thanks to graphic artist, Mark Elliott of VisualizInc for his many hours spent designing our official logo. Plans are underway for decals to be available soon with apparel to follow. Member clubs are free to use the logo on their web sites and within their publications.

Northern Lights

We are currently investigating
copyrighting the logo for permanent

use.

**Brenda Hackett Vice President
NL4x4TRA**



Northern Lights Joins Tread Lightly! Canada

We look forward to working with TL Canada in promoting it's principles and practices. We are planning to establish a TLC page on our web site wherein member clubs and interested individuals will be able to locate membership information. Perhaps we may be able to coerce Bert into utilizing some of his journalists expertise for our newsletter. We encourage our member clubs to get involved with TLC and promote responsible four wheeling. Although club membership is ideal members of NI4x4 are asked to supplement the NL4x4 contribution to TL through a voluntary contribution of \$5. This money goes to fund projects and material. Promotional articles currently available through NL4x4 are; "The Tread Lightly Guide to Responsible Four Wheeling" at a cost of 2\$ each, Tread Lightly! Canada pins \$7.50 each, black plastic licence plate frames with a maple leaf and Tread Lightly! Canada printed in white for \$5.00 each and a teachers guide, science manual at the high school level which could be of some assistance for training seminars. More items are expected to be made available. For ordering information for membership inquiries contact Bert Coates Director Tread Lightly! Canada, PO Box 22049 Westmount Station, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 6J7 or by phone at 519-575-0661 or by fax at 519-886-6591 or contact Brenda at

nl4x4@ibm.net or by phone at
416-444-8231.

Corporate Sponsorship Update

This brief was presented to the General Meeting of Northern Lights, held at the Chrysler Canada Ltd. sales offices, Mississauga Road, Mississauga, Ontario on April 10th 1999.

As your president, Wayne Groom, has always referred to, in his opening remarks at all meetings:

The Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders Association was conceived with the goal of being an assisting or coordinating group in the environmental issues of the day. The issues that were prevalent at our conception and remain prevalent today are:

- Lands for Life (now Ontario's Living Legacy)
- Closing of Crown Lands to all individuals as well as organized groups
- The reputation of all motorized groups that make use of public lands and wilderness areas

Hence the issues that affect nearly all the off-roaders and groups that you, and all 4x4 clubs, represent.

We (NL4x4) thought that with our connections, especially in the greater Toronto area, we **could** do some good, acting for a number of Ontario clubs and concerned groups by utilizing some of the contacts we already had. Such as:

- Local politicians
- Legal/Government offices
- Insurance Companies
- Corporate Offices
- Manufacturers

Northern Lights

• Etc.

In attending just a few meetings, we found we were not alone. There were many other groups out there such as, Rustbelt and the UFWDA who were doing the same and they needed help. UFWDA in the United States had enough to do for their problems were ever increasing with environmental issues and land closures. We are all aware of these. Add to this the expansion of the SUV/Truck market. Today every manufacturer has an SUV/Truck either being manufactured or in the works. This segment is the largest growing now exceeding the family sedan.

Here in Ontario, government legislature is closing down lands because of fiscal restraints and at the same time people, whether individually or in organized groups, continue to abuse the environment. We are being denied the use of our beautiful country, the lands are shrinking and before we know it we could find ourselves with no place to drive off road. Just witness what is happening in the United States.

Your responsible directors of NL 4x4 realized that a more active voice or coordinating group was needed to assist or do the job in Ontario, let alone all across Canada.

But this all takes work, work and more work and money.

NL 4x4 requires not only support from members and member clubs but also money. We need funding and where would that money come from? As with UFWDA, the resources that they go to for financial assistance are the manufacturers; Rover/GMC/Chrysler etc. They, the manufacturers, realize that they all benefit from our organizations, whether they be the larger organizations such as UFWDA or the clubs. For example; Chrysler/Jeep with their Jamboree groups have been the forerunners in organized trail events. Now other corporations are doing the same types of activities, and they all turn to local clubs. The manufacturers rely on our experience at Autoshow and marketing groups look for our ideas and expertise in 4wd displays. New

truck/SUV introductions and demonstrations need manpower for short periods of time... they turn to clubs. Local fair organizers in rural areas look to public spirited clubs to draw crowds. Local groups (Chamber of Commerce) and tourist attractions look to the organized clubs to lead the way to the wilderness areas. It is my understanding that some local 4x4 clubs have been instrumental in establishing parts of the Trans Canada Trail System and that there will likely be the need for future involvement in this worthwhile project.

In the USA the manufacturers all contribute in some way to the UFWDA groups. In discussing our agenda with all the manufacturers at their Canadian Corporate offices, they are not opposed to contributing to our group, however, they would like to see a broader coverage by the NL4x4 group, if not a national thinking to our endeavors. And so this is where we are today.

We are at the beginning of something that will grow... with your support. But we will need a larger group to draw from. In other words, we need more participating clubs and groups to become members of Northern Lights. We MUST expand, especially here, in Ontario if not across Canada if need be. and then we will receive financial support from the manufacturers... guaranteed as you see here today.

It's just a start but Chrysler has offered the use of their premises for this and future meetings. In addition to this, they have loaned us the use of 4x4 vehicles and vans for our travel in our campaign to sign up clubs. Chrysler remains one of the major contributors to UFWDA in the USA.



Can we count on your help in our future drive for more participating clubs?

Northern Lights

In the future, we will keep you informed of our progress. Likewise, if we can be

of any assistance with your group with any local manufacturer, do not hesitate to contact us through the appropriate channels. We are sure we can be of some help.

For now... as you can see; DaimlerChrysler is on our side.

Len Bink
Director, Northern Lights 4x4



Many Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors!

- **DaimlerChrysler-**
Mississauga



- **Durabilt Pump Services-** Toronto



Durabilt Pump Services Inc.
90 Inneside Crescent, Unit #2, Scarborough, Ontario M1X 1M3
Tel: (416) 293-9151 Fax: (416) 293-5359

Robert (Bob) Redshaw

Rebuilders of all Radial Vane Compressors and Vacuum Pumps
• SPECIALIZING IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY •

- **CANUSA Automotive Warehousing-** Dorchester



- **National 4WD Centres-** Burlington



SPECIALIZING IN:
Complete Line of
2 Wheel and 4x4 Accessories
Installation Available

Phone (905) 634-0001
Fax (905) 634-6010

E-mail: national@worldchat.com

TERRY HARVEY

4122 SOUTH SERVICE ROAD
BURLINGTON, ONT. L7L 4X5



Ontario's Drive Clean Program

The environment minister announced the Ontario Drive clean Program on August 22/97. The Drive Clean program was aimed at reducing harmful smog producing vehicle emissions. It was developed following an 18 month pilot study, extensive consultation and a review of similar existing programs in 38 US states and BC.

Vehicles will be tested against the emission standards for that particular vehicle's model year with allowances made for normal vehicle deterioration. Most vehicles will be tested using a dynamometer. When a dyno. cannot be used or the test facility is only equipped with a two wheel unit, a two speed idle test will be used. For diesel vehicles the test is somewhat different. Emissions will be measured at the tailpipe with a beam of light. If your vehicle is full time 4wd and the testing facility only has a single axle dyno. a two speed idle test will be performed. This test is easier to pass than the dyno. testing.

The cost for the test is not to exceed 30\$ of which 10\$ goes to fund the program and the remaining 20\$ to the repair facility to help fund the cost of the new and somewhat expensive testing equipment. If you require a re-test it will cost 15\$, plus applicable taxes, provided that the retest is done at the same facility, otherwise it is

Northern Lights

considered a new test and the cost would be 30\$. The test takes

approximately 20 minutes and the gas cap is tested first and separately before proceeding with the rest of the test. You can expect to replace your gas cap as something like 90% of all gas caps have failed thus far. The testing facility can sell you a new gas cap. A properly functioning gas cap is a necessity for completion of the test.

There are some instances where the testing facility may refuse to test a vehicle. Problems identified prior to testing that may affect the test results, the equipment or the safety of the operator may include; bad tires (showing tread wear indicators), different size tires on drive axles or questionable tire integrity, radials mixed with bias ply, visible smoke from the tailpipe or crankcase, fluid leaks, overheating, exhaust leaks and missing fuel filler caps, outstanding manufacturer recalls, obvious mechanical failures or questionable safety.

So what can you do to prepare for this testing? Find a reputable test facility operated by someone you trust. Utilize the Better Business Bureau listings. Shop around. Contact your dealership with regards to outstanding recalls and service bulletins. Try to run at least two tanks of premium fuel through before testing. Have a basic tune-up done including air filter, PCV valve, plugs and wires and oil change. Run your vehicle at highway speed for at least 20-30 min. prior to testing.

If the motor or drivetrain configuration varies significantly from stock and was not offered by the manufacturer for that particular model year then the vehicle will be tested at 1980 vehicle emission standards. You may be asked to provide proof of modifications not readily visible i.e.: crankcase changes. These "hot rods" will only be tested this way until 2001. In 2001 and afterwards, vehicles registered as model years of 1999 or earlier will continue to be tested according to 1980 emission standards, and vehicles registered as model years 2000 and later will be tested according to emission standards for their model years.

Should your 4wd fail this test... you will receive a computer printout page entitled "Common causes of excessive exhaust emissions". This will outline some of the possible causes of test failure. You are obligated to spend up to \$200 at a Drive Clean repair facility regardless of the total estimate of the repair bill. For example; if the test failure is due to an engine malfunction and the repair bill would be 2000\$ to rebuild the engine, then you would only have to present the receipt for the cost of the estimate and incidentals, i.e.; new air filter, plug and wires and (for example) an O2 sensor to apply towards the 200\$ limit. You would then be allowed to plate the vehicle for two more years at which time the same vehicle would require re-testing with no leniency in the repair costs. Any repairs **MUST BE DONE AT THE DRIVE CLEAN REPAIR FACILITY** to qualify for the 200\$ limit even though someone you know may be an accredited auto mechanic. Of note... there is no limit on the amount of repairs considered necessary to stop the vehicle from burning oil. This is not considered an emissions problem and will not qualify you for the 200\$ limit. It is unlikely that a vehicle burning oil will even be considered for testing. Having passed the test or made the necessary repairs to your limit you will qualify to have your plates renewed for two years. There is specific information for buying and selling used vehicles and I suggest you contact the Ministry of Transportation for their guidelines.

This is basic information. For details contact the Ontario Drive Clean Program at 1-888-758-2999 or visit their web site at www.driveclean.com. Or contact the Ministry of the Environment/Public Information Centre at: 1-800-565-4923 or at their web site www.ene.gov.on.ca

**Cory Sanderson &
John Carroll Director NL4x4**

Northern Lights



UFWDA

Northern Light's First Delegate's Report.

Of note: anyone wishing to attend the United Annual Meeting, it is being held in Silver Creek, Colorado this year. The cost is \$65.00 US per person. This does not include accommodations but does include two dinners. For further information or to reserve your spot before June 30th, 1999.; contact Pat at (303)761-2163 or by e mail at cocommando@aol.com

Anyone wishing to order UFWDA decals, patches, flags, pins, hats, jackets, shirts, sweatshirts, licence plate frames or endangered species decals and patches contact me at nl4x4@hotmail.com or by phone at 416-444-8231 or by mail c/a Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders Association P.O. Box 14 Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 3K1 for ordering information or place your order by phone by calling the UFWDA store 1-800-44UFWDA.

Much email was received lately largely pertaining to the Nantahalla National Forest/Tellico area as well as multiple road /trail closures across the United States. UFWDA needs our support in fighting proposed legislation aimed at reducing 4x4 access to these areas. I urge you all to add your voice to theirs either by continued membership or by participating in letter writing campaigns. For more information be sure to visit the UFWDA web site at <http://www.ufwda.org>

Of late UFWDA has been asking their member clubs and associations to support NL 4x4 in following the Ontario "Living Legacy" process and by

sending letters in support of our cause to our politicians. Support is being rallied to encourage large scale letter writing campaigns to gain recognition for organized four wheeling across Ontario.

On a lighter note... Joyce Hillson has recently been approached by the US Postal service with regards to immortalizing SUV's on a US postage stamp. What better way to honour the 4wd vehicles that have been used for everything from war and farming to search and rescue support.

John Carroll

Director Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders Association UFWDA 1st Delegate

Canadian 4WD Magazine!



The Canadian Four Wheel Drive Magazine web page is now up and running at www.can4x4.com. For further information or for a subscription to this very Canadian, very interesting magazine please contact:

Canadian Four Wheel Drive Magazine
P.O. Box 27118750 Coldstream
Ave. Victoria, B.C. V9B 5S4

Subscription cost beginning next year will be \$16.00 as they are moving to a bi-monthly format. Please make cheques payable to APV Publishing Inc. Visa and MasterCard also accepted.

Brenda Hackett

Membership information:

Individual \$10.00
Charter \$20.00
Club \$100.00
Associate \$20.00
International \$25.00
Supporting/Corporate available.

Northern Lights

For more information contact:
Northern Lights 4x4 Trailriders

Association.
PO Box 14, Ingersoll, Ont.
N5C 3K1 416-444-8231
by e mail at nl4x4@ibm.net

Or check out our web site
www.nl4x4.com (under construction
Thanks Tim!)

We would like to thank our Charter Members!

Len Bink
Bob Boland
Chris & John Carroll
Mark Coles
Paul Cranfield
David Gough
Trish & Wayne Groom
Brenda Hackett
Phil Hackett
Stephen Hary
Henry Keith
Sandy & Peter Langer
Robert Maddocks
Wes McNeil
Robert Redshaw
Lynda Redshaw
Rick Roberts
Tim Ross
Kris Schattmann
Sheryl & Phil Whyte

Member Clubs of Northern Lights 4x4

Border City Jeep
Club
Gary MacVoy, President
54 Spruce St. North #208
Kingsville, Ontario
N9Y 3S1
519-733-9137
garmac@jet2.net

Eastern Ontario
Trailblazers
Roger Kartzmark, President
1456-H Heatherington Rd.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 6S1
613-247-9218
eotrailblazers@home.com
Web site:
[www.members.home.net/1to
olman/](http://www.members.home.net/1toolman/)



Central Ontario 4wd
Club
P.O. Box 7128, Station A
Toronto, Ontario
M5W 1X8
416-410-4108
Robert Maddocks, President
1-905-792-8908
rugrat@colleseum.com
WEB SITE:
<http://www.co4x4.com>



Northern Lights



North Hastings 4wd
Club
Dean Harkema, President
P.O. Box 332
Foxboro, Ontario
K0K 2B0
613-395-2264
jeep@reach.net
WEB SITE:
<http://www.geocities.com/Baja/Dunes/5623/club.html>



Southern Ontario Dirt
Drivers
Reg Green, President
296 Bath Rd., Bayou West
Plaza
Kingston, Ontario
K7M 4X3
613-547-9420
Fax 613-547-0385
sodd@off-road.com
Web site <http://www.off-road.com/~sodd>