

# THE EVOLUTION

EVOLUTION JEEP ALLIANCE'S NEWSLETTER

August 2022

Volume 9



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## Where's EJA?

So while moving his Daughter to Colorado, Scott Alleman couldn't resist a trip into the Rockies. Originally He planned on doing a different trail, but the entrance was closed. So Old Flowers Trail was just up the road. At the entrance was multiple private lands which were clearly marked, so He stayed on the trail going slow as to not dust the houses out. The trail was a pretty rough rutted trail but the scenery was amazing. There were Prairie dogs, chipmunks, and a deer that came along. The Prairie dogs were very fast so he didn't get any pictures of them. As he made it up the mountain, there were multiple places for camping, the roughing it type, which



people were taking advantage of. The forest obviously went through a fire but the pine trees are making a strong comeback.

Scott definitely recommends any of the trails if you make it out there. "You'll have a nice relaxing day. I would have went farther but a big thunderstorms were coming in and I was by myself."



## IF YOU'RE NOT EVOLVING, YOU'RE STANDING STILL

### Member Spotlight

The August Evolution Jeep Alliance member spotlight is Ciji Bailey and her 2016 Oscar Mike Edition Wrangler named Leviathan. We asked Ciji what got her into Jeeps in the first place? Her response is like many of us. She said "My love of jeeps stems back from my childhood. I remember my dad had a CJ5 and I absolutely loved when he would pile us in, take the top off and take us on the back roads. There is nothing like the wind in your hair and even at a young age I knew it was the best feeling in the world! Now owning my own jeep feels like a dream and sometimes a bad one, when things start breaking or there is that one modification you can't live without. However all the bad can never outweigh the good! I never thought I would own a jeep but when life throws you lemons (or at least a 16-year-old totaling your car and your husband saying let's buy a jeep) you do just that, and it's something I am extremely thankful for everyday."

Ciji also says "When I'm having a bad day or life has been crazy, I know I can jump in my jeep and just cruise; the wind in my hair and the music blasting." She said "I used to hate driving. I always threw the keys to my husband but now it's very rare he gets to hold the keys!" Ciji states that she has met so many amazing people throughout the past year of owning her jeep and many have become friends. The community is so helpful and she enjoys all the events that can be attended and the causes we help support! When she has the time, she loves off-roading; whether at AOAA or on a country back road, she likes getting Leviathan dirty and challenging herself to new obstacles.

What Ciji loves the most is knowing her children get to have that same feeling of wind in their hair just like she did when she was younger! "She has a long way to go but she is mine and I love every modification, mile, and adventure we take!"

Ciji's list of mods include the following:

- Affordable offroad rock slides
- 2.5" Teraflex lift kit
- 1" Teraflex front and rear spring spacers
- Pro Comp 05 Series Torq Matte black wheels
- 33" Nito Didge Grapplers
- Rough Country front and rear adjustable track bars
- JKS sway bar quick disconnects
- Redrock honeycomb grille inserts
- Axial LED smoked fog lights, turn signals, halo headlights w/DRL and amber turn signals
- Barricade HD front and rear bumpers and rectangular adventure mirrors
- Redrock trail antenna
- Alien shades 50" light bar
- Yuguang 4" LED white/blue pod lights Rock lights
- Front and rear grab bars
- Rugged Ridge switch panel
- Badlands Apex 12000 pound winch
- And of course much more to add on in the future!



## Sponsor Highlight

A Note from Tyler Laursen, Owner and Founder of MORRFlate. "Holy cow what a journey! I started this project in 2016 when I did what a lot of you probably do. Got sick of running around my rig and squatting at my tires twice per trip. I then proceeded to pop the hose, cut my



hand on the hose clamps, break one of the fittings on the Rubicon, and wear down my valve stem threads and change my valve stems within 2 years. Over time, and driven by extreme laziness to not squat at my tires any more, I found better parts, higher quality fittings, durable hoses, and put it all together in a complete package that is simple, refined, and easy to

use. Fast forward, with friends and local 4x4 clubs asking for kits, I started an online storefront. Since the blowup of outdoor recreation during COVID-19, we have incorporated, got a warehouse, and are able to start providing jobs surrounded by a pretty damn awesome industry and fun atmosphere. Giving back to this industry that allows us to provide an offroad lifestyle for friends and family is an important goal for us.



We are business members of Cal4Wheel, TLCA, and CORVA. Up through 2020, we were able to donate close to \$10,000 towards raffles and give aways that benefit 4x4 organizations across the country. In 2021 alone, we were able to donate

over \$17,500. We are also local to, and help with trail maintenance on The Rubicon Trail, Fordyce Creek Trail, and the Barret Lake Trail in Northern California.

Our #1 priority is customer service. We realize that there are a lot of companies out there that nickel and dime all of us, or outsource their customer service, or are okay with long lead times and not properly planning production. That's not us. We want to revamp the industry and be the leader in terms of servicing and being that "buddy" to all our customers."



Need a custom setup or help planning a MORRFlate into you build? Let us know! We are here to help you and work with you so you can get out to the trails and enjoy more time in the outdoors.

MORRFlate is a valuable Evolution Jeep Alliance Sponsor. Go to the sponsor section at [www.evolutionjeepalliance.com](http://www.evolutionjeepalliance.com) to utilize the discount code.

## Events & Community Support

Maybe it's the summer, great weather, topless ability, or just the longer days, but over the last 30 days we have been very active.



We had two events that focused on school supply donations, supported Penitent Souls Children's Foundation, and a dunk tank to support an animal shelter.

There were numerous other meet and greets and events we attended from show and shines, to

birthday parades, to a Jeep Jamboree.



One of our larger events was the 1st Annual Women's Wheeling day at AOA. The ladies were the trail guides and the ladies were the drivers. Guys rode shotgun. Everyone did great. We had first timers as well as seasoned pros.



Women comprise over 40% of Evolution members and that number is growing each month!



Keep checking the Events tabs on our Facebook and Website pages as well as the calendar published within this newsletter to see what events are happening when and where. We would love to see you at an event.

## EJA Newsletter Team

Stephen Ellis  
Brennan McMahon  
Shaun McMahon  
Jake Hayden  
Gary Swogger



# 2022/2023 EVENT CALENDAR

Date:	Event:	Location:
8/25-8/28/22	Ocean City Jeep Week	Ocean City, MD
8/25-8/27/22	Great Smoky Mt Jeep Invasion	Pigeon Forge, TN
8/27/2022	SLRC @ Field & Forest Recreation	Harrisville, NH
9/2-9/5/22	EJA Morris Mountain Event	Delta, AL
9/17/2022	EJA Supports J.E.E.P. Fall Trail Ride	AOAA
9/24/2022	EJA at AOAA	AOAA
9/25/2022	EJA supports Tires Against Tumors	Easton, PA
10/14-10/15/22	Krawlin' 4 K9's	Rausch Creek
10/29/2022	EJA To Field of Screams	Montville, PA
11/11-11/13/22	Great American Crawl	Big Bear, CA
11/12/2022	Wheel2Heal	AOAA
12/10/2022	EJA at AOAA	AOAA
4/1-4/9/2023	Easter Jeep Safari	Moab, UT
4/23-4/30/2023	Jeep Beach Week	Daytona, FL
5/6/2023	Recovery for a Cause	AOAA
6/9-6/11/2023	Bantam Jeep Festival	Butler, PA
7/21/2023	EJA Supports Skid Row Offroad Open House	100 Creek Road, Carlisle, PA 17013
7/21/23-7/23/23	All Breeds	Carlisle, PA
8/11/23-8/13/23	Topless For Tatas	Rausch Creek
11/11/2023	Wheel2Heal	AOAA

## 2022 All Breeds Jeep Show, Carlisle PA

Evolution had a great presence at the 2022 All Breeds Jeep Show. We shared a large space with NotSoStock4x4, Rock Crawler Jewelry, and Genesis Jeep Coalition. We had over 20 Jeeps at the show. Some were posted around the event within other booths such as AOAA, AWE Tuning, and Get Your Jeep On.



Additionally, we participated in two other events as well during the show weekend. We were at the Skid Row Offroad Open House on Friday night and were part of the Genesis Jeep Coalition/Evolution Jeep Alliance Meet and Greet on Saturday night.



# Tech Talk

Hey Evolution Jeep Alliance! Like many Jeepers, one of the things I love most about my Jeep is taking the top and doors off. To take off my top I used to use the big maple tree in my front yard with a chain and pulley, with rope through the pulley going to a old boat winch. This worked well, however it was in my front yard, and that is where my top would sit. I would have to put the top back on every time I would mow.



I used products like Topsy's brackets to lift my top off of my wrangler; again that setup worked pretty well. Then I traded my Wrangler in for my Gladiator and was back to square one. So, after seeing someone else post a hard top hoist station on social media, I decided that's what I'm going to do. So I set out to reverse engineer it based on a photo. I figured out how large I wanted it, and by the grace of having enough land to make my hoist station, I set out to build it.



I went to the local sawmill and purchased my lumber. I went with untreated lumber as it was 1/3 the price and lighter to build by myself. I then found myself a suitable spot that was flat and easy to get in and out of. My first version was simple; four posts with supports on all four sides, big enough so that I could drive through. However here in upstate NY I like to hunt, and my hoist station pulled double duty to hang my deer. Last hunting season I broke the rope I had been using to lift my top with (Thank goodness my top was not dropped).



I set out looking to simplify the station and discovered that there are many options for the Wrangler for hardtop removal...not so many for the JT. One of the best hoist systems I found was the Lange originals Hoist-A-Top. Now I already had the winch and decided all I needed was the hoist-a-top frame, so we ordered it. A few days later it arrived and I assembled it right away. Then the rain came so I had to wait a day or two to use it. The time came and it worked just the way I wanted it to. I had the top of my JT off in around 2 minutes. When putting cable on my winch I made sure to leave enough cable to allow the top to go all the way down to the ground, as to let the top rest there when not in use. I used hose hangers from Harbor Freight that I put pipe insulation on to hang and protect my doors.

The Hoist-A-Top is pretty cool as it sends an arm through my rear open window with foam padding to lift the top in the rear center. Two hooks that are rubber coated grab the front sides. There are foam supports to hold the freedom panels and bungee straps to secure them.



All in all, my station is just the way I want it and it functions flawlessly. Lange Originals makes Hoist-A-Tops for every Wrangler model and after seeing how well it works with my Gladiator, I'm sure they work great for others. They also have options of a power hoist and a hand crank winch. The Hoist-A-Top is ideal for use inside a garage, but my set up works well with it too.

If anyone is interested in making a hardtop hoist system similar to mine, here is my build list:

- Lange Hoist-A-Top frame
- 2x6x10 (8-14) be sure to do bracing to hold square and depending on hard top hoist frame
- 4x4x10 (4) as uprights and use 2x6's for supports and somewhere to mount your doors and the winch. You'll want to leave the ends open to drive through
- 3-4" screws, two boxes to be safe or one lager box
- 4 concrete elephant feet to protect the 4x4 up rights
- 2 (or 4) hose racks to hang your doors on, depending on how many doors you have
- Pipe insulation to cover the hose racks
- Hand powered Boat trailer winch (I don't suggest doing a worm gear as they take forever to crank) Or, you can do an atv winch and a battery (I would use a solar panel to keep battery charged, or run power to it and a converter)
- 4 eye hooks, depending on lift frame
- 4 pulleys for cable
- 2 Locking links



For more information or to discuss the build, please reach out to Brennan McMahon

# We ♥ our Sponsors

## EVOLUTION SPONSORS



## EVOLUTION MERCHANDISE



Purchasing some Evolution Merchandise is a great way to support our mission to build, grow and help not only the Jeep community, but our local communities.



All proceeds of our merchandise goes to funding events for our members as well as supporting local charities and fundraising efforts to better our communities.



Check out our website [www.evolutionjeepalliance.com](http://www.evolutionjeepalliance.com) to browse all of our available merchandise from T-Shirts to Towels and Phone Cases. Your support is greatly appreciated!



## ALWAYS EVOLVING