

# Del Albright's 2004 Access, Land Use and Rubicon Trail Newsletter

Del Albright here, four-wheeling Ambassador for the BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC), and Environmental Affairs Coordinator for the Calif. Assoc of 4Wheel Drive Clubs. I am also the Trail Boss for Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR), as well as President of the Rubicon Trail Foundation.

**This is my annual newsletter on access, land use and the Rubicon Trail. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can help your efforts some how.**

In this letter, I'd like to give you a quick run down on five important subjects, and let you know how your club or group can make a difference to our future.

I want to tell you about:

- 1) The **Rubicon Trail** and recent closures.
- 2) The **Recreational Trails Program** (RTP) and how you can get grant money for your trails;
- 3) The importance of **membership** and belonging; having our voice heard.
- 4) **Manufacturers/vendors** of off road parts and what we need to do about them; and
- 5) My **leadership course** for volunteer groups and clubs that I offer by correspondence, and now, with hands on workshops in your area.

And some other subjects that are important to the future of our recreational pursuits.

*Del*



## **Rubicon Trail: The Spider Lake Closure has been lifted. Spider Lake is OPEN.**

However, we are treating the Spider Lake area with a very light touch....we must show the agencies that we can keep this high sierra lake clean and pollutant free. We plan to do that.

*We are asking that folks camp/park no closer than 50 feet from the edge of the lake.*

*We insist you NOT get near the lake or any gullies that drain into the lake if you have a leaky rig.*

*We ask that you repair your leaky rig as soon as practical on the trail, and use a fluid recovery kit to clean up any spills.*

*We request that you follow the Pack It Out concept – especially for human waste. This is imperative. We offer solutions to this. Please visit here for more: <http://www.delalbright.com/Rubicon/sanitation.htm>*

Spider Lake was closed this past summer due to human waste issues around the lake – and quite frankly, just too many people on the trail who were not tuned into the environmental impacts of heavy trail use. We are changing that. Folks are getting the word and we are working hard to keep our precious Rubicon alive and well for everyone, in perpetuity.

The Spider Lake Closure was in effect until Nov. 10, 2004. That closure is now lifted because the Friends of the Rubicon cleaned up the mess (hundreds of pounds of human waste in the vicinity of the lake). It's all gone and we plan to keep the area clean.

We are asking Eldorado County and the USFS to MANDATE a Pack It Out program until we can get some bathrooms built on the trail.

If you want more information on the Rubicon Trail, please visit the Rubicon Trail Home Page at: <http://ww.delalbright.com/Rubicon/rubicon.htm>

Join Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR) if you want to stay tuned up on the trail and its future.

You can also participate in the Rubicon Trail by visiting the Rubicon Trail Forum on many web sites across the country.

We have public (town hall type) meeting set for Dec. 4, 2004 in Placerville to talk about the Master Plan for the Rubicon and what the future might look like. Visit here for more:

[http://www.delalbright.com/Rubicon/meeting\\_12\\_04.htm](http://www.delalbright.com/Rubicon/meeting_12_04.htm)

**Also note, we now have a new Corporation to help manage the Rubicon Trail. The Rubicon Trail Foundation was formed earlier this year as a public benefit corporation (soon to be 501.c.3) to help keep the Rubicon Trail alive and well forever. Donations are being accepted now to fund the Foundation. Learn more on the Rubicon Trail Foundation web site: <http://www.rubicontrail.org>**

Join the BlueRibbon Coalition because they are the ones paying me to stay in the game and help keep the Rubicon Trail open! Go here:

<http://www.sharetrails.org>



**Recreational Trails Program (RTP):** RTP is grant money is still out there and available for YOU to save YOUR trail. It's available in nearly every state. It comes from the Federal Highway Administration and it is gas tax money collected for the sole purpose of giving us opportunities to enhance our trails.

We're talking about \$50,000,000 (yes, million) nationwide. Get your share!

Read all about RTP and how to get involved at your location by visiting my web site: [http://www.delalbright.com/RTP/rtp\\_enter.htm](http://www.delalbright.com/RTP/rtp_enter.htm)



**Membership:** Join whatever you can afford to join. It's imperative that we all support as many organizations as we can. Believe it or not, it is dues (membership) that keeps our access fights alive and well. It's that simple. BRC is a grassroots organization, and our funding to keep folks like me in the game comes from folks like you joining up.

Yes, we need more businesses that we buy from to jump in with the big bucks. But in the meantime, we need YOU to be a member of everything you can possibly afford to join. Every membership dollar helps keep someone like me fighting for you. JOIN.

Join your local club. Join your state/regional Association. And join the BlueRibbon Coalition right here online at: <http://www.sharetrails.org>. JOIN.



**Manufacturers, Vendors and Businesses:** The plain truth of the matter is that we have some manufacturers and businesses that support us in keeping our trails open, and we have others that don't do squat but sell us stuff. It's time to send them a message!

We need to support the folks that support us, and quit buying from those that don't (if we can't convert them). Nothing drives home a message like money. If we spend our money with folks that support us, and cut out the others, then we'll be saving our trails as we build up our rigs.

One organization that is getting the business world involved is the Off Road Business Association (ORBA). Roy Denner is CEO and President of ORBA and he is actively recruiting businesses to join ORBA all across the country. If you see a business displaying an ORBA sign, then you know you're buying from someone who truly supports access to our trails. Visit the ORBA web site to learn more: <http://www.orba.biz>

Another good indicator of a business that is on our side is if they are members of clubs and organizations. Check your club/Association newsletter to see who kicks in to help us. Buy from them. Don't buy from others who do not do something to help with access. It's that simple.

**Support Businesses That Support Us!**



**Recreational Leadership Training Course (RLTC):** I offer a correspondence course that helps folks get more organized, become better supervisors, and leaders in recreation. On site (hands on) workshops are now also available. No where else can you find leadership training like this for volunteers.

RLTC trains you to inspire, motivate and facilitate volunteers for things like meetings, projects, work days, conventions and about anything else we do as volunteers. It teaches you to be a leader and good supervisor of volunteers. It helps you in your personal and work life as well. Many tips and tricks are provided in simple, easy to learn style that will elevate you to a higher level

of involvement in keeping our lands open for responsible recreation.

There is no other leadership training like it for volunteers.

Sign up for the correspondence course here:

<http://www.delalbright.com/RLTC/rltc.htm>

The hands-on, on-site workshop is called the Volunteer Leader and Land Steward Workshop (VLLS). One workshop was held during the summer of 2004 near the Rubicon Trail. 16 students from across the country graduated.

The next one scheduled is in Dallas, TX, in March of 2005. One is being planned for New England area for the Spring of 2005. More are in the works. Contact me directly to learn more or visit:

<http://www.delalbright.com/RLTC/vlls.htm>

**This is new. Check it out!**

**alltalkradio.net**<sup>™</sup>  
THE INTERNET DIRECTORY OF TALK RADIO



## **4Wheeling Radio Talk Show – Give a Listen!!!**

### **4 Wheeling Today**

4 Wheeling Today is a show about outdoor 4 wheeling. Show topics include riding, runs, modifications,

environmental issues and land issues. Hosted by veteran 4 Wheeler Bob Crandall

**Program Name:** 4 Wheeling Today

**Website:** <http://www.alltalkradio.net>

**Email:** [bob4x42000@yahoo.com](mailto:bob4x42000@yahoo.com)

We can make a difference here. This is one of the only radio shows that I know of about 4wheeling and access to our trails. I've been on the show several times and it's a good show. Bob is making a difference in our sport and our access to trails. We need more folks to listen in and make the show a success.

This is where you can also support those businesses that are supporting us. If you hear an ad here, then if you can, support that business.

Right now the show is regional in nature. Mostly the Western states are mentioned because Bob is located in Las Vegas right now. But he talks of access everywhere. Primarily the callers are from NV, CA, AZ and UT; but we have had some from TX and elsewhere. The more folks listen, the broader his show will get. Let's get some good press out there.

Tuesday nights, 6pm PST. It's on All Talk Radio. It's called 4Wheeling Today with Bob Crandall.

Check out <http://www.alltalkradio.net> for 4Wheeling Today Radio Show!





#### **MISC:**

There are many important access issues going on. I suggest you contact your state/regional association to learn more and get involved in your area.

These include:

**Route Designation and Inventory**

**Roadless Rule**

**OHV Rule**

We have a friendly Administration in the White House right now (for four more years). NOW it the time to make hay. Let's get involved in these issues. Let's show the world how we can be responsible for our lands and recreational opportunities – and make a difference. We need our voice heard on all these important topics.

If you are brand new to getting involved, please read my web site information here:

<http://www.delalbright.com/Access%20%26%20Land%20Use/involved.htm>



#### **SUMMARY**

I appreciate you taking time to read this letter and review these important updates with your club and friends. I also encourage you to have your Land Use/Conservation person contact me directly by email so I can get you on my access and land use email network. I write monthly columns and articles about access issues and I would be happy to make these available to you and your club. Just drop me a note with your contact information.

Email Del: <mailto:del@delalbright.com>

If you are not a BRC member, please consider joining today. If you have not joined your state/regional association, now is the time. If you want grant money for your trails, please look into the RTP program. If you want to learn how to manage a trail, check out what we've done with the Rubicon Trail.

Buy your parts from folks who support us.

Let me know if you'd like more information on the leadership course or the on-site workshops. Lastly, please accept my thanks for your involvement in keeping access to our lands and trails.

Sincerely, and in the spirit of cooperation and unity,

***Del Albright***