

## 2020\_January\_Newsletter

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## Hello Newsletter Subscribers

Thank you for signing up to receive my newsletters. I hope you've found the previous editions informative and helpful for your vehicle-supported adventures. I trust you will enjoy this month's newsletter. If you have comments, please email me: [Bob.Wohlers@discoveroffroading.com](mailto:Bob.Wohlers@discoveroffroading.com). You can access, download, and read previous newsletters on my website here: [NEWSLETTERS](#) Look through the Newsletter Reference for a topic that may interest you, or download them all!



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### Off-Road Product Evaluations and Product Inclusion in My Books

Off-roaders and overlanders use products and accessories in the remote backcountry to make their excursions safe, efficient, and comfortable. Think fire



extinguishers, portable 12-volt refrigerators, satellite communicators, GPS units, bases for stock jacks, recovery accessories, tents, and etc.

Also, we modify our vehicles with aftermarket products and accessories to make them more trail worthy, comfortable, and safe, plus provide them with extended utility. Think lockers, sway bar disconnects, larger tires, suspension lifts, stronger axles, campers, dual batteries, battery



management systems, and etc. The point is, almost no one takes a completely stock or empty vehicle into the remote backcountry for extended adventures. When we are well informed, we purchase and use a variety of products that match the type of off-road adventures we enjoy.

In past newsletters I have reviewed certain products and accessories I feel worthy of your consideration. However, I don't want my newsletters to focus solely on product and accessory evaluations. I will continue to provide you with generic training information that is not necessarily product specific.

That said, there are some products I feel obliged to review. What generally "pushes" me to share my opinions about a particular product? Four reasons are key. I enjoy reviewing products for my readers when I:

1. Get a ton of similar questions, like "What tires do you like?"
2. Become really excited after using a great product in real-world situations.
3. Read product articles in magazines that I believe are misleading.
4. Watch YouTube videos that are, in my opinion, uninformed, misleading, flat out wrong, or dangerous.
5. Read misleading or incorrect product information on Internet forums.



In all of these situations I feel compelled to: 1) Share my experiences with products I know well, and/or 2) Include these products in my books. Listed here are some bulleted thoughts to provide you context with regards to my personal evaluations of

an off-road product. Please note carefully... I'm not trying to make myself look virtuous or more credible than other product reviewers or authors. I know I'm not a perfect person. The following are simply my "standards."

- **I ONLY Work for My Readers, Students, and Tour Participants.** My newsletters, books, and my company do not have sponsors, plus there is no part of my business where I accept advertising of any type. I make no money on my newsletters, and the publishing of my books are exclusively funded from my own bank account. I am an off-road and 4WD author, trainer, and tour guide – I make 100% of my income from these three activities. My only customers are my readers, students, and those that participate on my backcountry tours.

- **I'm Honored to be a Product "Ambassador."** I freely admit that I am an "ambassador" for a few companies. As an "ambassador," I'm simply someone who believes in one or more of a particular company's products. This doesn't mean I have used or believe in ALL the products a particular company sells. To name a few, I currently consider myself an "ambassador" for Factor 55, MasterPull, Hellwig, Extreme Outback Products, Fiat Chrysler Automotive (think RAM and Jeep brands), Yokohama, SafeJack, Hi-Lift, and Garmin. On the home page of my website, I call these companies "Partners." Regarding this relationship, it's important that you, my reader, student, or tour participant understand that **"I picked these companies, they did not pick me."** I picked these companies based on my own product research (utility, safety, "wham" for the buck, etc.) and personal use in real-life backcountry and off-road situations. I typically use these products on multiple vehicle types and in differing terrain. Sometimes these companies honor me with a reduced cost for products, but not all. None of these companies have in any way lined my pockets with hard cash. Some have tried, but the offer is always rejected.

- **Companies that Approach Me About a Product.** If a company approaches me about trying one of their products, I always outline a couple of qualifiers: 1) I need to personally try the product for a substantial period of time prior to my written evaluation or exposure in my books. 2) The product needs to live up to its marketing publicity, be safe, have good instructions, and have utility for my readers or students. If these qualifiers cannot be met, I'm not interested in the product. I also tell these companies that if I don't care for their product, I'll return the product and say no more about it in my newsletters or books. I don't write negative reviews on products when a company approaches me. I will only talk about these rejected products if specifically asked by a student, reader, or tour participant.

- **Products I've Never Used Off-Road.** When asked about a particular product I've never used in the field, I say so. I don't make something up. I don't even give opinions on products that I've only tried at a trade show or expo. The floor of a trade show or expo is not the remote backcountry. It's not a real-world scenario.

- **No "Advertorial" in My Newsletters or Books.** My writings cannot dabble in "advertorial" simply because I do not take advertising of any type. Advertorial is when a magazine or publisher provides its advertisers with positive product reviews in an editorial form. In these magazines, I've found that some products deserve a good review, but some do not. How is the reader to know if there are ulterior motives when a positive article is written on a product? I'm not universally questioning the virtuosity of a writer that pens a positive article about a product

for a magazine that takes advertising from the company that makes the products – but one has to wonder. There is always the possibility of an “eight-hundred pound gorilla” in the room – if you catch my line of reasoning.

- **Typically Used Products.** In my newsletters and particularly my books, I try to cover only those products used extensively in the field. From time-to-time I will highlight new products that I feel worthy of exposure once I’ve tried them in the backcountry, under actual off-road situations.

With these thoughts in mind, I will provide you with my review of a couple of new and exciting off-road products in my February Newsletter. Stay tuned.

## 2020 4WD Training Classes Now Scheduled

I've just posted several 4WD training courses on my website calendar. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

I plan on scheduling and posting more courses in the coming months.



Each course is \$450 per driver (no unpaid passengers allowed). Two different two-day courses are offered at this time – **Intro to 4WD Discovery Course** and my very popular **Recovery Course**.

The **Intro to 4WD Discovery Course** begins to prepare you to venture off-road in comfort – helping you protect people, your vehicle, and the environment. Upon completion of this course you begin to understand the limitations of your vehicle and your driving skills. Learning this will allow you to intelligently choose excursions and trails that match your capabilities and your vehicle’s. Off-Road

Safety Academy™ will safely teach you in one weekend what it takes most people years to learn on their own.

Prerequisite: None (Except a desire to learn and have FUN!). Length of Course: Two days. Vehicle Requirements: Any reliable 4-Wheel Drive SUV, SUT or truck with: 1) 2-speed 4WD transfer case (must be able to shift into a 4-Low gearing), 2) Street legal, 3) Full-size spare tire, 4) Full tank of gas, 5) Seat belts for all passengers, 6) Vehicle in excellent working condition, no fluid leaks, etc.

The **Recovery Course** covers skills from Bob's popular book – *The Total Approach to Getting Unstuck Off Road – 4WD Self-Recovery & Vehicle-Assisted Recovery*. Learn important recovery skills directly from “The Man Who Wrote the Book.” Day One is totally dedicated to winching and Bob's Stuck Assessment & Recovery Plan Checklist.™

Day Two is dedicated to all other non-winching forms of recovery – Traction Recovery, Hand Winching, Kinetic Energy Recovery, and Disabled Vehicle Towing Recovery. Day Two also includes a two-hour infield tire repair clinic. Nowhere on the planet will you get a more thorough overview of all the necessary skills needed to get unstuck off-road in two days. Guaranteed or your money back.

Prerequisite: None, but consider completing the Intro to 4WD Discovery Course first. Length of Course: Two days. Vehicle Requirements: Any reliable 4-Wheel Drive SUV, SUT or truck with: 1) 2-speed 4WD transfer case (must be able to shift into a 4-Low gearing), 2) Street legal, 3) Full-size spare tire, 4) Full tank of gas, 5) Seat belts for all passengers, 6) Vehicle in excellent working condition, no fluid leaks, etc. 7) Consider owning a winch for this course (but not required).



[Click Here To Go To Course Schedule](#)

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## Four Wheel Camper Owner? Sign Up for 2020 Tours NOW!

Four Wheel Campers and Off-Road Safety Academy have again partnered in 2020 to offer owners of their campers several overland adventure tours. If you are a Four Wheel Camper Owner and have a 4WD truck, you can still sign up for Tours.



*2019 Mojave Road Tour*

**The Parashant National Monument and Baja Tours are SOLD OUT.** Waiting Lists are now forming. call or email Bob to be put on the list.

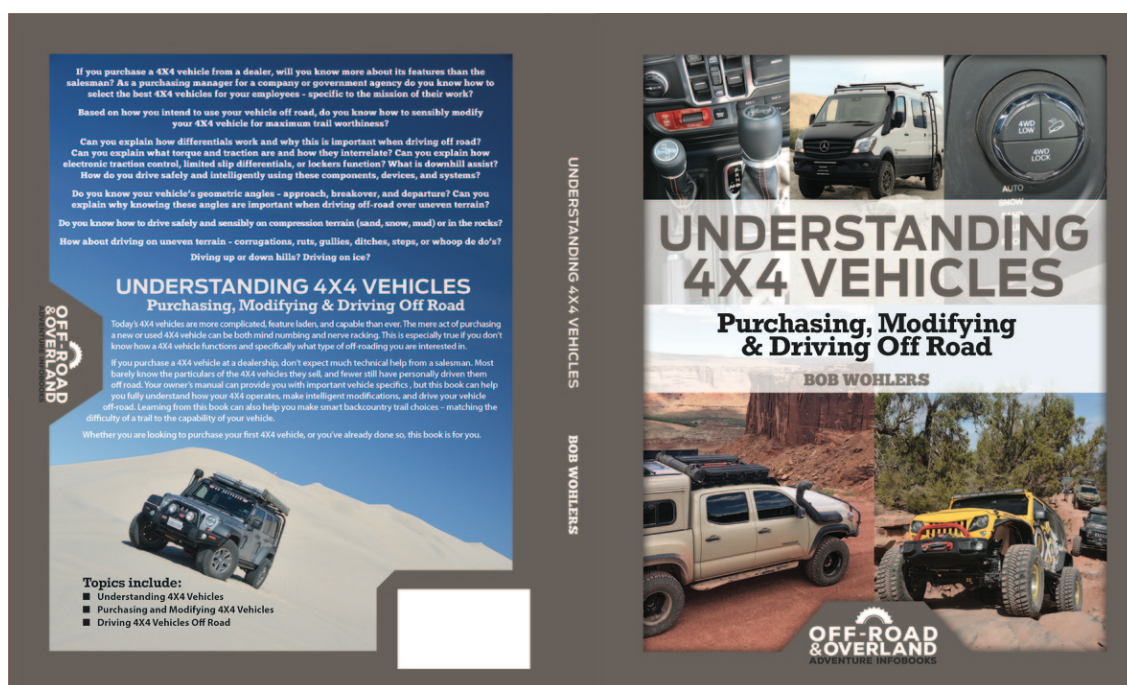
Bob.wohlers@discoveroffroading.com; Phone: 909.844.2583.

As a permitted National Park and BLM Guide, I can only take 12 total vehicles on any one tour. Once you've paid for a tour, you are officially enrolled.

**Don't wait to sign up. Tour spots go fast.**

[Click Here For More Tour Information](#)

## My Fourth Book is Coming in 2020



This fourth book will tie my entire Off-Road & Overland Adventure Infobook series together. While my previous three books were for both beginners and advanced drivers, this is THE book for all beginning off-roaders and overlanders.

*Understanding 4X4 Vehicles – Purchasing, Modifying & Driving Off Road* has key content for anyone interested in understanding the different types of 4X4 vehicles and how different 4X4 drivelines function. Today's 4X4 vehicles are more



complicated, feature laden, and capable than ever. The mere act of purchasing a new or used 4X4 vehicle can be both mind numbing and nerve racking. This is especially true if you don't know how a 4X4 vehicle functions and specifically what type of off-roading you are interested in.

If you purchase a 4X4 vehicle at a dealership, don't expect much technical help from a salesman. Most barely know the particulars of the 4X4 vehicles they sell, and fewer still have personally driven them off road. Your owner's manual can provide you with important vehicle specifics, but this book can help you fully understand how your 4X4 operates.

Once a vehicle is purchased, many modify their 4WD for increased trail worthiness. But what intelligent modifications should you make based on how you intend to primarily use your vehicle off-road? This book helps you make priority modifications to match the types of terrain you will drive most often.

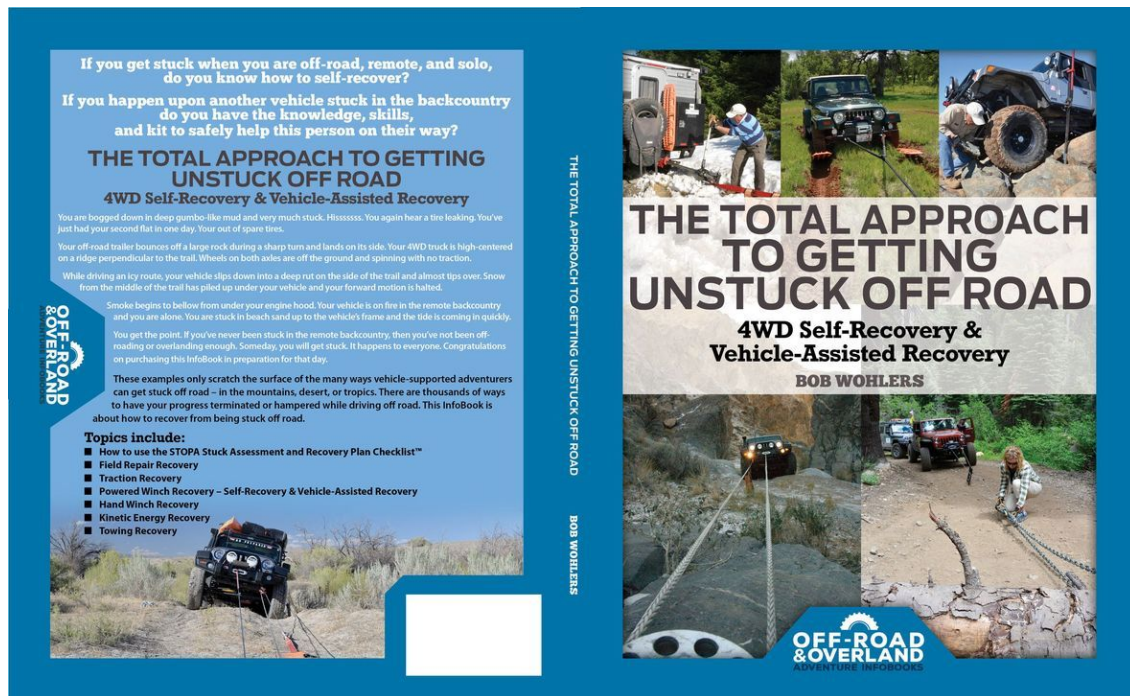
*Understanding 4X4 Vehicles – Purchasing, Modifying & Driving Off Road* also helps you drive different off-road terrain. This section of the book includes:

- Map and GPS Use Basics
- Memorizing Your Vehicle's Interior Buttons and Levers
- Two Foot Driving Off-Road with an Automatic Transmission
- Properly Driving Off-Road with a Manual Transmission
- Hill Climbs
- Hill Descents
- Driving Over Compression Terrain – Sand, Snow, and Mud
- Driving Over Ice
- Rock Crawling
- Driving Over Uneven Terrain
- Driving Side Slopes
- Water Crossings
- Trailer Supported Adventures – Driving with Off-Road Trailers

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**My Third Book Is For Sale On  
AMAZON (And It's A Monster – 352**

# Pages!



My third book in the series is here! There is NO other step-by-step book like this on the market, anywhere on the planet. *The Total Approach to Getting Unstuck Off Road* is the MOST complete treatise on the subject ever.

Topics include:

- \* How to use the STOPA Stuck Assessment and Recovery Plan Checklist
- \* Field Repair Recovery
- \* In-Field Welding
- \* Traction Recovery
- \* Powered Winch Recovery - Self-Recovery & Vehicle-Assisted Recovery
- \* Hand Winch Recovery
- \* Kinetic Energy Recovery
- \* Towing Recovery

**You NEED this book!**

**Purchase the Book Here**



## 2020 Teaching at NorthWest, BC, and Rocky Mountain Overland Rallies

I am again honored to be teaching at these 2020 Overland Rallies. If you have never attended one of these fabulous family and pet friendly overland gatherings, YOU NEED

TO! **Have Fun, Learn Stuff, and Meet New Friends.**

Rally organizers have just opened registration for 2020. EARLY BIRD TICKETS are now available.

This year, organizers will be allowing pre-registered guests onto the field at 1pm Thursday but folks who buy tickets at the gate can only enter after 3pm.

Organizers have a fixed number of spaces available so book yours today.

[Click Here For NorthWest Overland Rally Tickets](#)

**June 25-28,  
2020**

Registration will open soon. Check back [HERE](#).



**July 30-August 2,**

2020



[Click Here for Rocky Mountain Overland Rally Tickets](#)



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