



Hello Newsletter Subscribers,

Thank you for signing up to receive my training-centric 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.

Are Old-Style Jumper Cables a Thing of the Past? Yes.

Much like a vehicle fire, a dead battery can bring your off-road journey to a quick end. No matter how good or how new your engine starting battery may be (or secondary auxiliary battery), you can easily run out of electrical energy in the remote backcountry, especially with today's vehicle and camping electrical demands.



The electrical energy in a battery can be depleted any number of ways. Perhaps one of the most common electrical drains for off-roaders is when lights and other accessories are accidentally left on overnight. Most overlanding refrigerators have circuitry to cut off battery power when it gets low, preserving enough voltage to start a vehicle. However, these settings can be changed or defective. A battery not being topped off with a solar charging system can go dead quickly in the backcountry.

A dead battery can also occur in the remote backcountry when you leave home with an old or tired battery. There have even been confirmed cases of brand new, top-quality batteries suddenly having an internal short, leaving you marooned in

the remote backcountry. If you don't have another way to energize your vehicle's starting system, you will be stranded. Obviously, off-roaders need to pay closer attention to their battery's condition than highway drivers.

If your battery (or batteries – as in a dual battery system; a topic for another newsletter) becomes incapacitated in the backcountry, obviously you can get a jumpstart from another vehicle if one is around and jumper cables are available. This is an obvious example of a Vehicle-Assisted Recovery. However, if you are remote and solo and your battery fails you, you need to be prepared to energize and start your vehicle without the help of another vehicle. This is Self-Recovery.

As a self-reliant overlander, I believe that jumper cables are a thing of the past. They are bulky to carry (in lieu of all the important equipment you really need to carry) and make you dependent on others. In today's world of overlanding, I believe the mini-jumpstart battery system is the piece of equipment to carry at all times. I won't travel into the backcountry without mine.

Typically these systems have a large amount of amps available for multiple jumpstarts on a single charge. Many can fit in a pocket, weigh less than a kilogram/pound, and even have enough electrical capacity to start large diesel engines (like the tractors here on the ranch). If you don't have a dual-battery system for your vehicle, get one of these mini-jumpstart systems to help you self-recover from a drained starting battery. Better yet, keep one of these mini systems in your vehicle at all times regardless of how many batteries you have for back up. They are smaller and handier than taking traditional jumper cables with you. Perhaps this is the death of bulky jumper cables.

Most mini-jumpstart systems also have a small LED light (some with selectable SOS and strobe signaling like my Weego), a battery capacity indicator, and a couple of USB ports for charging cell phones, laptop computers, and camera batteries. Some units have outlets for a variety of voltage applications. Overlanders can take these small powerful batteries in the tent or camper with them to operate electrical devices. Even if you have some sort of dual-battery set-up in your 4WD, it is still a great idea to have one of the mini-jumpstart systems with you at all times.

The Weego Mini-



Jumpstarter

I've owned several mini-jumpstart products – namely Antigravity and Weego. Both work as advertised. However, in my opinion the Weego is a much better unit. Here are my reasons:

- Great Battery Case. I especially like Weego's sealed casing, as it is IP65 certified, built tough for water, dust and dirt resistance.
- Dual LED Lights. The Weego's LED flashlights are very powerful. The Weego is in fact, the only

flashlight you'll need on a camping trip.

- Heavy Duty Battery Clamps. By far, the Weego clamps are the best in the industry. The circuitry built into the Weego's patented Smarty Clamps® walk you through a safe and foolproof jump every time.
- Hanging Method. The Weego comes with a handy lanyard to hang the unit above the battery or engine. This is convenient when using the LED lights to work under your hood or when jumpstarting a vehicle.
- Best USB Ports. The Weego uses its Detect-o-Matic™ circuitry to automatically provide the fastest charge to one of your cell phones, tablets, or computers.
- Staying Power. The Weego can take 1000 charging cycles and up to 3 years of standby power on a single charge.

I purchased the Weego 66 jump starter, their largest and most powerful unit. On a cold morning, I once jump-started a dead battery on both our New Holland tractor and John Deere Backhoe diesels with the Weego 66. No easy task. The LED flashlight on this Weego lasts up to 30 hours and boasts an output of 600-

lumen.

The Weego USB Detect-o-Matic™ outlet circuitry detects the best method of charging personal items, like a Smart Phone.



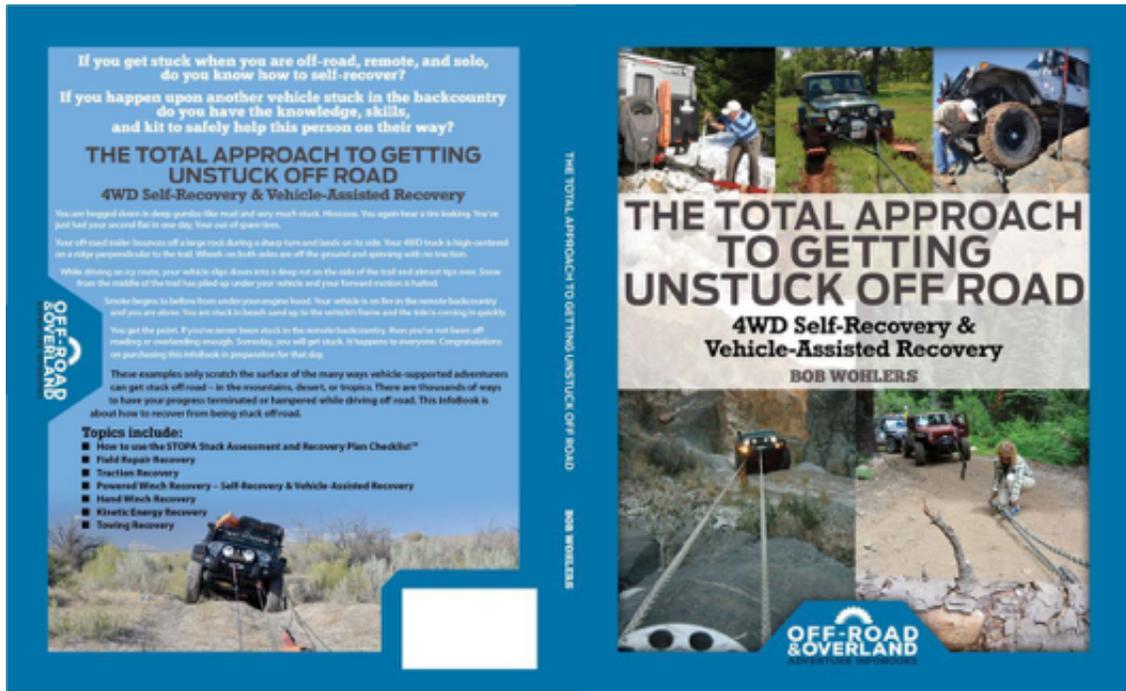
To jumpstart your dead battery, simply hang your Weego above your battery and attach the positive and negative clamps.



*I like the design and
robust construction of
the Weego Smarty
Clamps®.*



My Third Book Is On Its Way!



My third book in the series is coming! I'm shooting all the photos now for this work. There is NO other book like this on the market, anywhere on the planet. *The Total Approach to Getting Unstuck Off Road* will be the MOST complete treatise on the subject ever.

Topics will include:

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

You NEED this book!

ALSO: Newly Scheduled 4x4 Off-Road Training Course and Tours

October 6 – I'll have a booth at the Four Wheel Camper Factory Open House, Woodland, CA

October 19-21 – Training at Four Wheel Camper Gathering, Ocotillo Wells, CA

October 26-29 – Death Valley Overlanding Tour (\$300). There are still a few

spots.

November 17-18 – Discovery (Beginning) 4WD Course at Prairie City, California State Vehicular Recreation Area (\$300 per driving person)

Go to discoveroffroading.com for course/tour details and payment. Courses and tours fill fast – sign up now.



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