

2020_April_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. 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!



Get Your Copy of the NEW "Basic Guide to Kinetic Energy Recovery & Towing a Disabled Vehicle Off Road"

Dollar-For Dollar... Your best off-road accessory is

TRAINING. PERIOD.

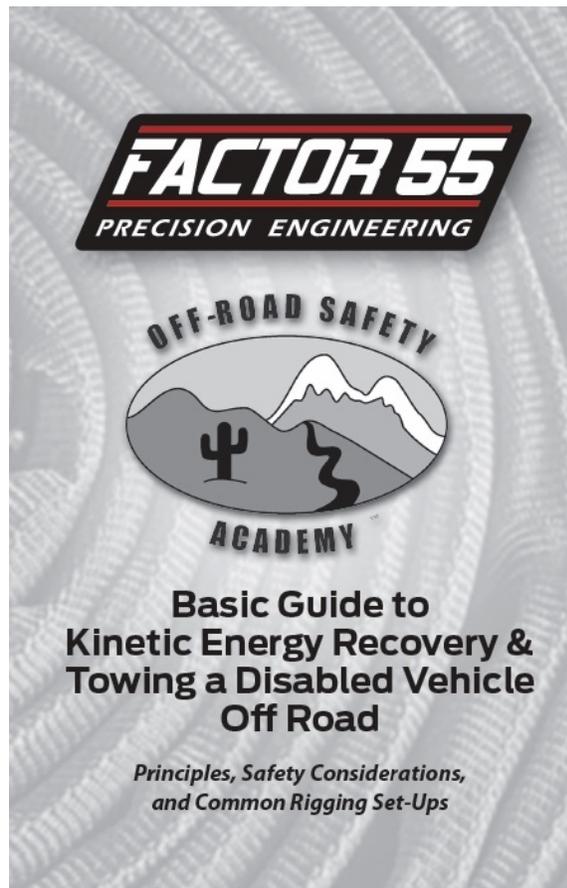
With that truth in mind, Factor 55 and Off-Road Safety Academy have again teamed up to produce a **second** educational booklet focusing on safe and effective recovery techniques.

The first guide, *Basic Guide to Winching*, has been out for about a year. Thousands of this guide have been given free of charge to Factor 55 equipment users at shows and expos, and by off-road trainers conducting recovery training.

Now that Factor 55 sells premium Kinetic Energy Recovery Ropes (KERRs) and tough polyester Tow Straps, we felt it was time to produce this new guide. Why? Because like winching and many recovery outings, Kinetic Energy Recovery can be dangerous if performed incorrectly.

Truth is Kinetic Energy Recovery may be the most misused of all recovery efforts. Misuse can cause vehicle damage or worse yet, injure users and bystanders. As I state in my book *The Total Approach to Getting Unstuck Off Road - Self-Recovery & Vehicle-Assisted Recovery*, the real problem with Kinetic Energy Recovery isn't that it doesn't work, or is exceedingly dangerous. The REAL problem is off-roaders in the field so often use Kinetic Energy Recovery incorrectly, or rig the recovery incorrectly. The USER is the problem, not the recovery-type itself. In my humble opinion, it is wrong of some authors and trainers to say that Kinetic Energy Recovery should NEVER be used, by anyone.

Many users of stretchable Kinetic Energy ropes or straps hook them up rather dismissively and in a nonchalant manner. The equipment is quickly rigged, handled, used, cared for, and stored. Kinetic Energy is often casually described as a "quick way" to get a vehicle unstuck. This flippant attitude and recovery procedure leads to vehicle damage and personal injury.



This new guide by Factor 55 and Off-Road Safety Academy will help you use Kinetic Energy Recovery in a more safe manner. The guide also covers the difficult procedure of towing a disabled vehicle off-road as well.

Want a free digital PDF of this guide? READ ON...

Facebook Live Will Begin Momentarily



Facebook Live Event... Tuesday, April 14th @ 5 PM (PST)

Join me for Off-Road Safety Academy's very first Facebook Live event from my home office. Go to my Corporate Facebook

Page at Off-Road Safety Academy - Blue Sky Adventures, Inc. a few minutes before 5 PM Pacific Standard Time. Click [HERE](#) for the link to the Facebook Live event.

The topic for this first Facebook Live session will be Kinetic Energy Recovery, covering the new Factor 55 and Off-Road Safety Academy *Basic Guide to Kinetic Energy Recovery and Towing a Disabled Vehicle Off Road*. In that Live event, I'll give you a link to download your free guide PDF to save to your smartphone or

print for your vehicle's glovebox.

At the end of the session, we'll have a Q & A session where you can ask me **ANYTHING 4WD**. And no, I don't give marital advice. Ha!

4WD Courses & Tours Postponed – For Now

My teaching venues, primarily California State Vehicular Recreation Areas, are STILL closed due the Covid-19 virus protection measures. Further, Off-Road Safety Academy does not want to contribute to the spread of the virus by holding 4WD



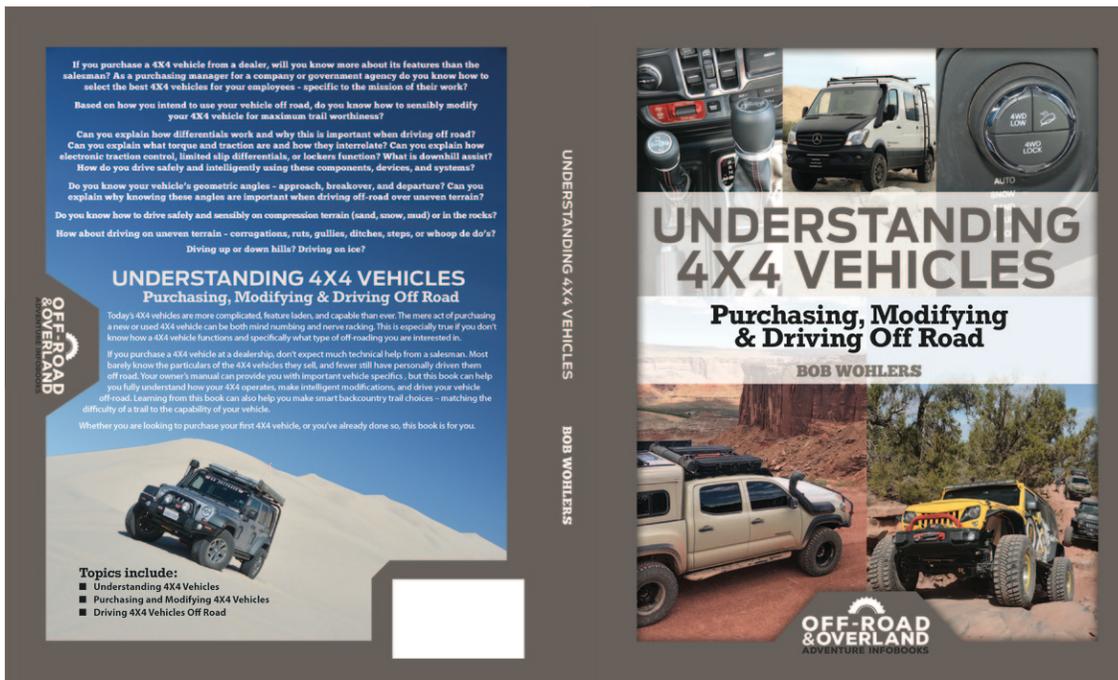
training courses and backcountry tours. So, until further notice all my Spring courses and tours are postponed. At this time I have only postponed those courses and tours through April. So, stay tuned - I'll keep everyone updated.

If you were enrolled in a postponed course or tour look for my personal emails to you regarding new dates. Some of you have had your fees refunded; while many others have decided to wait for new dates. Thank you. I will work hard to accommodate everyone that was enrolled in a postponed program. If I cannot accommodate a paid person with my revised dates, I will refund your fees. Once I begin teaching postponed courses and conducting tours again, I will send out another newsletter.



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

While You Are At Home... Read and Practice Off-Roading Skills



I know many of you are hunkered down in your home and on your property or boon docking at a remote site in your tent, vehicle, or camper. I believe that when life throws you Lemons, just make Lemonade. Since I can't attend the shows I regularly venture to (like Easter Jeep Safari, etc.) or teach my courses, I can still fulfill my company's mission by focusing on getting my forth book to my layout artist and on to the printer.



While YOU are at home... watch some news to keep up on what's happening, but don't watch the news 24/7. You will get depressed, I guarantee it. If you can't actually off-road or overland, read how to be safer. Learn and practice new skills in your garage - like repairing a tire or hooking up your winch to a tree on your property and practice some basic winching recovery set-ups. Scroll down in this newsletter to easily purchase my books from Amazon. These books can be delivered right to your door, no need to go to a book store.

Chris Cordes, editor of Expedition Portal recently reviewed my books. You can see his review [HERE](#) In his review, Chris said this...

Over the years, our staff has been asked a lot of questions about overlanding. But there's one query that almost every enthusiast seems to have in common. No, it's not "What size tires can I fit with this lift?" but rather "What will improve my vehicle's capability the most for the least amount of money?" The answer is simple, but generally not what people want to hear: training.

Heed his words. I promise you, the cheapest and best way to improve your vehicle's capability is TRAINING. Since you can't attend my courses right now, purchase the books and then PRACTICE the step-by-step skills outlined in each volume.

My Fourth Book

My fourth book will tie the 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.

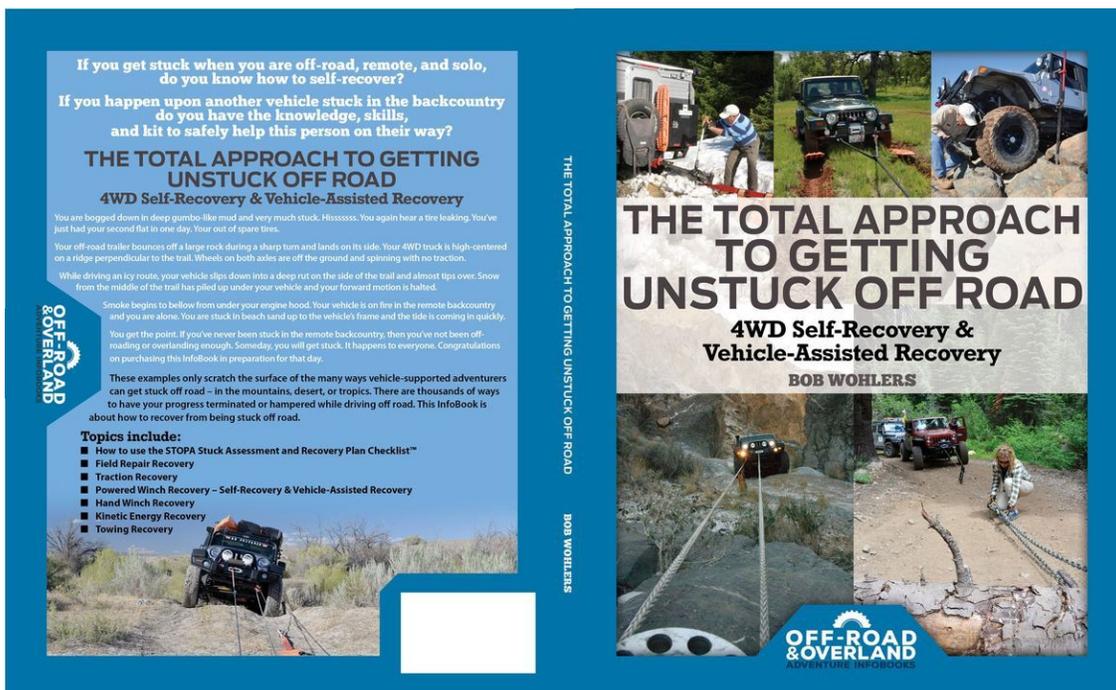
If you purchase a 4X4 vehicle at a dealership, don't expect much technical help from a salesman. Most barely know the particulars of the 4X4 vehicles they sell, and fewer still have personally driven them off road. Your owner's manual can provide you with important vehicle specifics, but this book can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

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



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. Authors of other books only include a small chapter on recovery. Clearly, NOT enough space to cover the topic completely or effectively. If you off-road or overland long enough, YOU will get stuck. You need this book. Prepare for "that day."

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](#)

Overland Expo West Teaching Sessions



Rescheduled // New Dates:

JULY 24-26, 2020
FT. TUTHILL COUNTY PARK
FLAGSTAFF, AZ, USA

I will again be teaching at this year's Overland Expo West, now moved to July 24-26 in Flagstaff, Arizona. Check [HERE](#) for details on the Expo.

These are the sessions I'll be teaching - Look for them:

- * Newest Techniques for In-Field Water Disinfection
- * Satellite Communicators: What's New & How to Choose
- * Building a Survival Bag for Vehicle-Supported Adventures

Also, my PowerWagon has been invited to be in the Hellwig booth, right next to the Four Wheel Camper booth. I'll be camped there so PLEASE, come by and say "hello" - I want to see or meet you.



2020 Teaching at NorthWest and Rocky Mountain Overland Rallies

I am again honored to be teaching at these two 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.

NEWS UPDATE: If you have not heard, the BC Overland Rally for 2020 has been canceled and the NW Overland Rally has been moved from June to the 2020

Labor Day Weekend - September 3-6. The Rocky Mountain Overland Rally will still be held on schedule in July.

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



**July 30-August 2,
2020**

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



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