



# Two Rivers Tracker

A publication of the Two Rivers Jeep Club, Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 1998

## A Word from the President

Submitted by Tom Wombles

In spite of our typically wet and soggy March weather, we've been having some very successful trail building weekends. We've accomplished quite a lot on many of the trails, however, there's still a lot of work and fun to be had.

As we are rapidly approaching the **6th Annual Land of Lincoln Jeep Jamboree** I encourage all club members to come out and participate in any or all work weekends they can attend. The past few work weekends have included 40-50 jeeps. There has been a lot of work, but a lot of fun and sporting as well. I'd like to thank all of those who have taken time out of their busy schedules to come out and participate.



We have one new trail to add to the Jamboree this year. It has been named "The County Line Trail" and is located on the Gerald Bennett farm, north of Perry, Il. So far it has been rated 5-6. It's still a fairly fresh trail, so there's not a lot of news on it yet. The owner, Gerald Bennett, has been a club member for 2 years, and now has been added to the landowner list.

We also have several new trail guides this year, and several new trail guide assistants are being trained. We would like to have a few more assistant guides for standby. Anyone interested should contact me or O.R. at one of the work weekends.

If you're thinking ahead to the Illinois Challenge, you'd better get your registration in now. This will also fill up fast. Don't be left out!

**See you on the trails.**

Tom

## 1998 Officers, Board Members, and Committees

### Officers and Board Members

President	Tom Wombles		217-437-5337
Vice President	O. R. Freesen		217-754-3505
Secretary/Treasurer	Durrell Miller	tnt4x4@aol.com	630-665-5181
Board Member	MaryAnn Callarman	uvnoida@aol.com	630-357-3695
Board Member	Kris Hunt		217-773-3269
Board Member	Hamer Tate		217-833-2861
Board Member	John Toumbs		217-773-3848
Board Member	Donny Walston		217-285-1553
Board Member	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750

### Committees

Communication	MaryAnn Callarman	uvnoida@aol.com	630-357-3695
Event Coordination	TBA		
Landowner Appreciation	Hamer Tate		217-833-2861
Promotional Items	Durrell Miller		630-665-5181
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	O. R. Freesen		217-754-3505

### Newsletter

Editors	Frank and Jude Fleeger	fazeout@aol.com	630-307-7998
Publisher	Dave Christensen		630-393-3314

**Membership:** Annual membership in Two Rivers Jeep Club runs from January 1 through December 31. First time memberships accepted after the Land of Lincoln Jamboree will be applied to the following year. Annual Membership dues are to be paid by October 1st each year with a 30 day grace period. Membership fees are \$40.00 for an individual membership and \$60.00 for a family membership. Landowners are given a complimentary membership.

**Article Submission:** Articles and photos from members can be published in the newsletter. Preferred article submission is by e-mail to [fazeout@aol.com](mailto:fazeout@aol.com) in any reasonable word processing format but hand or typewritten material can also be used. Photos can be black and white or color with a description of what, where and when. Put your name on the back of the photo when submitting. All photos will be returned to the owner. Scanned photos in any reasonable graphics format will also be accepted.



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630-554-2560



Fax 630-554-7045



Ask for "Tank"



## Club Store and Want Ads



### For sale:

- Dana 30 front axle housing from 92 Wrangler \$50 obo  
**Dave Christensen 630-393-3314**
- 79 CJ5, Dana 30/44, 33x12.50 Super Swampers TSLs, Ramsey 6000 winch, headers, 2 batteries, 500 CFM Edelbrock carb \$4,500  
**Lane Fry 217-773-2795**
- CJ-7 hard top \$300 obo, SR4 trans, 4spd \$300  
**Steve Callarman 630-357-3695**
- Wrangler full doors \$600, half doors \$400 fits 1982-96  
**John 630-505-1387**
- YJ steel half doors w/2 sets windows EC \$600
- Canyon City tire rack w/ custom brace. Fits YJ or CJ \$200
- Pre-runner light bars for front bumper (bolt-on) new \$25
- YJ stainless steel grill screens (snap into openings) \$25
- B&M trans cooler heavy-duty model 70266 \$30
- U-bolt skid plates for YJ or CJ \$50
- Roller fairlead for winch (brand new) \$50
- 5 Yokohama muddigger radials 35x12.50-15 \$350 (w/alum rims \$700)  
**Mike Penachio 708-345-2947 or e-mail pnutz@msn.com**
- (4) weld aluminum rims. 5 on 4 1/2 bolt pattern, 15"x14" \$600  
**Larry Schultz 630-904-0730**
- Pike Co. Real Estate for sale: near Summer Hill. 5 tracts, from 5 to 45 acres. Blacktop frontage, rural water, elect, and phone. 2 tracts w/pond. Great home sites!  
**Tom Wombles 217-437-4361**
- (4) Rancho RS9000 shocks. (2) part #9010, (2) part #9012, eye to eye mounting. NEW- still in boxes! \$40 each obo  
**Chet Parsons 510-502-6297 or cparson4@ix.netcom.com**
- Jeep axles CJ Dana 30 front, Ford 9" rear narrowed 4:10 gears All new-never run. Professionally setup. \$1000 obo
- GM 205 transfer case will fit 400 trans \$150.  
**Jason Burris 217-523-6193 after 5 pm**
- Wanted: stock set of wrangler springs.  
**Mike Westphal 630-719-9336 or e-mail Mikeintsun@aol.com**
- (4)alum Gambler rims 15x8 \$250. (4)Goodyear GSAs 30x9.50x15 \$200  
**Rich Majka 847-451-0556 e-mail Richard Majka@wastemanagement.com**
- (4) TSL Thornbirds 33x12.50x15 GC \$275  
**John Gaskey 630-495-2210**
- The following items are for a 4.2 YJ:
  - Frame mounted 2" receiver (no drilling)
  - Carburetor (recent rebuild), distributor, coil & computer (all for 258 otor)
  - Air conditioner, compressor, brackets, condenser & hoses (no dash unit for it)
  - 31" Goodyear AT's on factory alloy (5 tires & 4 wheels) available in April
  - Drawbar
  - Rear bumperettes**Frank Fleeger 630-307-7998**
- WANTED: I'm looking for a 4 cylinder longblock to rebuild.  
**Frank Fleeger 630-307-7998**



# Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Durrell Miller

Date: March 21, 1998  
 Time: 7:00 pm CST  
 Location: Farm Bureau Building, Pittsfield, IL

Board Members Present: M. Callarman, O.R. Freesen, D. Miller, H. Tate, J. Toumbs, D. Walston, T. Wombles  
 Absent: K. Hunt, G. Williams

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM CST with a quorum present. Several Club Members were present.

- I. Club Members were welcomed.
- II. No comments from Club Members.
- III. The minutes from the prior meeting were approved as read.
- IV. Officer reports:

A. Treasurer Report

1.	<b>1998 Cash Flow Summary (January 1 - March 16)</b>	
	Beginning Balance (January 1, 1998)	\$10,383.75
	Income	\$1,425.00
	Expenses	\$2,804.85
	March 21, 1998 Checking Account Balance	\$9,003.90

2. **1998 Financial Analysis (January 1 - March 16)**

**INCOME**

Membership Dues	\$780.00
Fund Raisers	\$45.00
Gifts Received	\$600.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,425.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Entertainment	\$653.32
Gifts Given	\$1,126.82
Equipment	\$250.89
Telephone (217-437-5337)	\$101.05
Postage	\$193.15
Office/Admin Fees	\$399.46
Rent	\$75.00
Auto Fuel	\$5.16
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,804.85</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,379.85</b>

B. Secretary Report

1.	<b>1998 Membership Summary (January 1 - March 16)</b>	
	Beginning Balance (Paid Memberships as of January 1, 1997)	121
	Current Balance	140
2.	<b>Membership Class Summary as of January 1998</b>	
	Individual	38
	Family	89
	Landowner	11
	Courtesy/Other	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>

Continued on next page

# Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

## 3. Geographical Membership Statistics

### States Represented by Membership

1. Illinois	114
2. Missouri	11
3. Indiana	7
4. Wisconsin	4
5. Iowa	1
6. Kansas	1
7. Kentucky	1
8. Ohio	1

## V. Committee reports:

- A. Trail Leader and Maintenance Report - O.R. Freesen presented that the trailbuilding is going very well this year. Membership participation is good. Possibility for additional trail availability on the County Line Trail. Potential loss of some ground on the Pike County Adventure trail.
- B. Communications Report - M. Callarman reported that the newsletter is on schedule and going well. More articles and pictures are needed for the next issue.
- C. Logo & Promo Items Report - D. Miller submitted report on current status. Club patch prototype and apparel were presented for discussion. Initial order and pricing was approved.
- D. Landowner Appreciation - (H. Tate)
  - 1. T. Wombles reported that correct address information was necessary for several new landowners to add them to the insurance policy.
  - 2. Special invitation should be sent to all landowners for special club activities.
- E. Event Coordination - no report

## VI. Special Activities

- A. Jeep Jamboree (T. Wombles) - 1998 event is full and waiting list is also full. 185-200 participants are expected. Separate mailing will be sent to individuals who are participating in work weekends and want to attend the Jamboree for information on how to get in. Club has 25 tickets available for trail guides. Seating and parking are problems - participation exceeds capacity. No trailers will be permitted in bowling alley parking lot this year.
- B. Illinois Challenge (T. Wombles) - In 1999 T. Wombles will no longer personally be the coordinator for this event. If the club wants to continue to support this event, another Club member will need to assume coordinator responsibilities.
- C. Club Member Donations to Pike County Charities were approved. (Eyeglasses, Non-perishable food items, clothing, etc.)

## VII. Old Business

- A. Insurance policy review - not presented.
- B. New answering machine for Club line - not presented.

## VIII. New Business

- A. 4x4 Blast proposed for 1999. National event open to all vehicles. The concept of an additional event was approved with the stipulation that additional planning and discussion are necessary to decide on specifics of event.
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jamboree has been requested by JJUSA and the City of Pittsfield to increase the revenue for both. T. Wombles supports this plan and suggests the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jamboree be held the weekend following the current Jamboree with people staying during the week in between for a 'Jeep Week'. He will make decision and advise JJUSA of decision by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- C. Suggestion from membership that the club submit schedule to local Pittsfield businesses to promote their business and offer specials during work weekends and club events.

## IX. Resolutions - none presented.

## X. Meeting adjourned 9:30pm CST.

*Respectfully submitted by:*

*Durrell G. Miller*

*Secretary*

**NOTE: The next Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm in the Pike County Farm Bureau Building, Pittsfield, IL.**

# STRAY THOUGHTS by "Airborn"

Believe it or not, I recently took time to listen to some of the garbage rattling around in my head and thought, "Gee, some of this doesn't sound too bad! Maybe I should write some of this down and share it." So....here goes.

There once was a Jeeper named Freesen  
Who said there is definitely a reason  
I can make my big yellow Jeep  
Slowly crawl and to creep  
And it can be done in any season.

Steve Callerman comes from up north way.  
The source of his problem he can't say,  
"I just don't understand,  
I write the directions on my hand,  
But I end up going the Rongway."

We all know the Jeeper called Pokey  
And although he can act quite hokey,  
When it comes to running the trails  
He leads us like snails,  
It's serious business - not jokey.

Griggsville is home to a fellow named Tate  
Who claims it must have been fate  
To build a trail on his farm  
Where one can drive without harm  
And he leads us there with his mate.

At Halloween he just once got stuck  
While driving through the mud and the muck.  
Pokey claimed it was twice,  
(which was not very nice),  
But Airborn just kicked in one buck.

When Gunlover drove into the hole by the rock,  
His wife practically went into shock.  
Although he got a big kiss at the end  
And promised never to do it again,  
Miss Vickie realized it was a crock.

There's also a person called Tough Nuts.  
He apparently has plenty of guts.  
He goes through the water  
Like a free-wheeling otter,  
But he can't keep it out of the ruts.

John Davis hails from Lee's Summitt.  
His complaint - "Dad-gummitt,  
My stomach turns sour  
When I need Mo' Power,  
And to the bottom my Jeep it does plummet."

From Overland Park comes the Warthog  
Who occasionally will drive through a bog.  
But he gets his big thrills  
By driving the hills,  
Dodging the stumps and the logs.

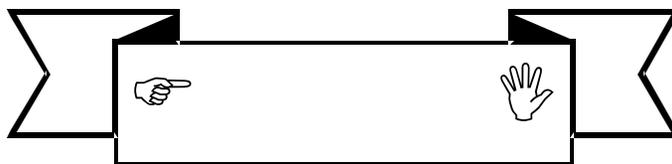
Rooster thought it not nice  
When his Jeep slid on the ice.  
During one week-end spree,  
His rig kissed a tree.  
Since then, that hill's been "no dice".

Tim Miller comes down from Decatur  
Because he thinks nothing's greater  
Than playing in a creek  
In his self-painted Jeep,  
Unless it's driving into a crater.

Mrs. Fleeger - namely Jude  
Was undaunted, would not be subdued.  
She kept charging that hill  
As if meaning to kill,  
Once she made it, the remainder pursued.

We know another fellow called Chief.  
Upon life he has one belief.  
"I'm going to enjoy  
Playing with my toy.  
Thankfully, my wife has no beef".

To those of you who remained unscathed in my wool gathering, despair not - there's plenty of crap in my Head that has not yet congealed into clear thoughts...if it does, I'll nail ya!



## Newsflash



The board is proposing starting our own club sponsored event July of 1999, inviting outside participants to attend. Some of the members expressed concern and wished to notify all club members. This family event could include other activities than trail riding, such as road rally, festival show, rodeo & competition, hiking, touring, bicycling, & beach party. The club will need members willing to work this event. We need your input immediately to let the board know if there is support from the membership for this type of an event. Please send your response to the editor:

**4x4BLAST**  
**22 W 424 Spring Valley Dr.**  
**Medinah, IL 60157**

## Land of Lincoln Jamboree

Please be advised **NOT** to bring trailers into the Legion parking lot. The bowling alley behind the Legion has asked us not to block their patron access. Also, the manager of Sears across the street has given us permission to park our jeeps (**not trailers**) in the Sears lot after 5:30 Saturday night of the Jamboree.



## Personal s

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Toumbs family. Sandy's father is on dialysis, and John's father just returned home from the hospital. We also are praying with Lee & Tammy Ator and Dusty Poore. Their father is also in the hospital. Let's all pull for him to get better.

# Ya Shudda Oughta Ben Thar !

By Carl "Airborn" Seymour

Now, we realize that the "work" in work week-end indicates *no fun*, but Pokey and I were never ones to conform entirely. So, with that in mind, the "Fearless Four" consisting of Pokey, Tom Cash, Jason Oderwald with Papa Jack riding shotgun, and myself with Piston-Packing Barb aboard, headed for our trail.



We had walked a new section two weeks ago, and were all set to start clearing on it. Pokey (of course) wanted to start with the *"fun"* part, but I insisted we do a little work first. Even though Jason had marked the trail for us on the first work weekend, apparently the melting snow washed out his pee so we had to go back to square one.

Once we figured out just where we would start, out came the chain saws, pitch forks, and pruners. The first section cut was one I had been looking forward to trying, so at the first chance, White Lightning came off the hilltop. With Pokey's expert spotting, I transversed the ravine

with no problems. (We may have to cut the tree if we wipe too many tops off the tall boys!)

Anyway, we continued on and amongst the cussing and discussing about where Jason had left his mark, we kept clearing. Pokey (being the natural born leader he is) led us through the next piece of newly made trail. Although one area seemed to be somewhat difficult, he easily made it once the winch came out. The rest of us came on behind him and we continued.

Most of what we laid out from there on was not quite as exciting until we came to our exit from the woods. Someone (Lord only knows who) suggested that we deviate and straddle this "harmless" ditch. Well, let me tell you, one tire misplaced dropped you into a hole that swallowed jeeps. We could easily have rolled if not for the high banks on each side wedging us at a 45 degree angle. We all had to winch or be strapped out of this one. After managing to get everyone back on the trail, we all decided to drive the new section again just to make sure the trail was easily visible. After the first two drivers went into the same hole and had the same result as the first time, we made a "go around" for the weak-hearted.

Don't worry, we'll still let anyone try it that wants, but....*ya shudda oughta ben thar!*

# Another Work Weekend

By Don "Pokey" Walston

February 7, 1998

Well, back to what we call "another work weekend". Once again, we met at McDonald's parking lot. From there, O.R. divided us into our work groups and off we went to work on the trails. Pokey (Don Walston), Airborn (Carl and Barb Seymour), Jason and Jack Oderwald, and Tom Cash headed for "Pokey's Trail". This turned out to be one of the most exciting days yet on this trail!



To start with, Jason tried to drive up a ditch that was designed to be straddled. The key word is "tried". Needless to say, he went up the ditch on his side (OUCH!). Next, Airborn attempted to entertain us by climbing up a bank on 2 wheels. (He's making sure no one forgets his alias!). Even Tom and Pokey took their turns. Pokey had to winch himself out of more than one difficult place, and Tom needed assistance two or three times, too. At one time or another, everyone got into a breathtaking predicament. **EXCITING, HUH?** This group that worked on "Pokey's Trail" cut a 1/2 mile trail and felt that it turned out to be a very productive work day. See ya all later!

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## MISSISSIPPI VIEWS TRAIL RIDE

Sunday, Feb 8th, 1998

by Dave Jacobs

Departed McDonalds after the fog lifted. Participating in this trail ride were Lou Goodman, John Toumbs, Bob Mikrut, Jason Burris, Scott Dickerson, Chuck and Nick Rieker, Craig Laurich and David Jacobs.



Upon arriving on the trail, Jason Burris had to turn around and head for home with his drive shaft broken. Chuck Rieker gave his son Nick a driving lesson. Chuck said, "It was the driver, **NOT** the Jeep's fault" that they could not get up the hill. T-Bucket Gully gave everyone a run for their money. We then went to a new section of the trail. John, Craig, and Bob attempted to drive it. They did a lot of winching on this part. John thought of a possible name for it, so ask him if your interested in what he wants to call it.

After lunch, Scott, Craig, John and David were left to continue. We started out with David breaking the rear-end of his Jeep. Then Craig mysteriously left early, since we all know his wife gave him orders not to break her Cherokee. Scott did some impressive 4-wheeling in Fuel-Injection Gully. We finished the day around 4 o'clock with a broken driveshaft, broken winch and a broken rear-end. But it was an enjoyable day over all.

## *1998 Tentative Schedule of Jeepin' Events*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Apr 4-12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easter Jeep Safari	Moab, UT
<b>Apr 4</b>	<b><i>Trailbuilding</i></b>	<b><i>Pittsfield, IL</i></b>
Apr 17-19	Arch Canyon Jeep Jambo	UT
Apr 17-19	Pine Barrons Jeep Jambo	NJ
Apr 18-19	4-Wheel Jambo Nationals	Anderson, SC
<b>Apr 18</b>	<b><i>Trailbuilding</i></b>	<b><i>Pittsfield, IL</i></b>
Apr 24-26	Ghost Towns, Mines & Mustangs Jeep Jambo	NV
Apr 24-26	Cajun Jeep Jambo	LA
<b>May 2</b>	<b><i>Trailbuilding Board Meeting</i></b>	<b><i>Pittsfield, IL</i></b>
May 2-3	4-Wheel Jambo Nationals	Springfield, MO
May 8-10	Maine Mtns Jeep Jambo	ME
<b>May 9</b>	<b><i>Trailbuilding</i></b>	<b><i>Pittsfield, IL</i></b>
<b>May 15-17</b>	<b><i>Land of Lincoln Jeep Jamboree</i></b>	<b><i>Pittsfield, IL</i></b>
May 15-17	Big Bear Jeep Jambo	CA
May 15-17	Palo Duro Jeep Jambo	TX
May 15-17	4-Wheel Jambo Nationals	Lima, OH
Jun 5-7	Canyon de Chelly Jeep Jambo	AZ
Jun 5-7	Daniel Boone Jeep Jambo	KY
<b>Jun 13</b>	<b><i>Father's Day Club Run</i></b>	<b><i>Pittsfield, IL</i></b>
Jun 19-21	Catskill Mtns Jeep Jambo	NY
Jun 19-21	Drummand Island Jeep Jambo	MI
Jun 19-21	Cliffview 4x4 Challenge Trail Ride	KY
Jun 26-28	Pocono's Summer Jeep Jambo	PA
<b>Jul 4</b>	<b><i>4<sup>th</sup> of July Club Run Board Meeting</i></b>	<b><i>Pittsfield, IL</i></b>
Jul 10-12	4-Wheel Jambo Nationals	Bloomsburg, PA
Jul 10-12	Red River Jeep Jambo	NM
Jul 17-19	Truckfest & Championship Offroad Racing	Joliet, IL
Jul 25-26	4-Wheel Jambo Nationals	Canfield, OH
Jul 31-Aug 2	Kentucky Challenge Trailride	KY
Jul 31-Aug 2	Penn's Woods Jeep Jambo	PA
Aug 1-6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All 4 Fun	CO
Aug 1-2	4-Wheel Jambo Nationals	Essex Junction, VT
Aug 7-9	Rubic on Trail Jeep Jambo	CA
<b>Aug 8</b>	<b><i>Pokey's Club Run</i></b>	<b><i>Pittsfield, IL</i></b>
Aug 14-16	Silver Valley Jeep Jambo	ID
Aug 14-16	Camp Jeep	CO
Sep 4-6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dakota Territory Challenge	SD

# 1998 Tentative Schedule of Jeepin' Events (continued)

<b>Sep 5</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Pittsfield, IL</b>
<b>Sep 11-13</b>	<b>Illinois Challenge</b>	<b>Pittsfield, IL</b>
Sep 11-13	Black Hills Jeep Jambo	SD
Sep 18-20	Old Oregon Territory Jeep Jambo	OR
Sep 18-20	Adirondack Jeep Jambo	NY
Sep 18-20	Great Lakes Jeep Jambo	MI
Sep 25-27	4-Wheel Jambo Nationals	Indianapolis, IN
Sep 25-27	Northwoods Jeep Jambo	WI
Sep 25-27	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ouray Jeep Jambo	CO
Sep 25-27	Poconos Jeep Jambo	PA
Oct 2-4	Dixie Run	NC
Oct 2-4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Between the Lakes Jeep Jambo	KY
Oct 2-4	Mahoosuc Mtns Jeep Jambo	ME
Oct 9-11	French Lick Jeep Jambo	IN
Oct 9-11	Appalachian Jeep Jambo	NC
Oct 16-18	Mohawk Trail Jeep Jambo	MA
Oct 16-18	Gateway to the Cumberlands Jeep Jambo	KY
Oct 23-25	Apache Land Jeep Jambo	AZ
Oct 23-25	Ouachita Jeep Jambo	AR
<b>Oct 24</b>	<b>Annual Board Meeting Ma Earth Halloween Club Run</b>	<b>Pittsfield, IL</b>

NOTES: Items highlighted are TRJC events or events held on TRJC trails.  
 indicates events that TRJC members are planning on attending.  
 (If you are planning on attending a non-TRJC event, please let us know.)

## Who's Going Where

<b>Moab</b>	Callarman Christensen Lee	<b>Dakota Challenge</b>	Callarman Christensen Hansler Hester Miller Toumbs
		<b>Ouray</b>	Budde
<b>All 4 Fun</b>	Davis DeTrou Jolly Seymour	<b>Land Between the Lakes</b>	Beaver/Huber Budde
			Frank Keller Meyers Smith
<b>Canyon de Chelly</b>	Bennett		

# Trail Report: Las Cruces, NM

Submitted by Joe Budde and Dave Christensen

**Four Wheeler TV** said: "Here we find some of the best engineered 4x4s from California, Arkansas, New Mexico, Arizona, and as far away as ILLINOIS... It's the classic scenario, incredible crawlers versus the impossible trail obstacle, a contest between man, machine and hard rock...through a deceptive extreme trail that very few have yet seen or navigated." (Couldn't have written that better myself ?)

**Breakage:** Front axle U joint, 35" BFG, Hi-lift jack, seat mount, trailer tire, bent axle/trailer, collapsed rear springs on motor home (rough ride back home!) Las Cruces Discount Tire went through 50-33" and 50-35" tires in one week!

**Sunday:** Gas in Tulsa as low as 85.9, nearby is a liquor store 200 feet from the DUI school; supplies for class are convenient!

**Monday:** After 1500 miles and 28 hours, got set up outside Radium Springs, NM., started to explore the Dona Ana mountains.

**Tuesday:** Went out on a few trails in the Dona Anas. Nothing exciting but a good test of the 35s to see where they rubbed on the sheet metal. That evening more wheelers started to come in. Winter *storm* warnings posted – what the heck?? We're only 40 miles from Mexico!!



**Wednesday:** Registration day. Drove up a mountain. Joe was a bit queasy on his first mountain trail experience. (Couldn't have been the Yukon Jack!) Really steep and rocky – needed both lockers at times just to keep from sliding down the trail. Came back, got registered and set up in the camp next to a Texan with a pretty much stock Suzuki who claimed he could do everything an "impressively built Jeep" could do, but he was only registered for "1" rated trails. He ran his motorhome generator all night and the fumes were so bad that the gas vapor detectors in our coach and others went off and shut down all our LP gas. Had a short talk with him and he decided to move to another campground. He got kicked out of that one too!

**Thursday:** Tabasco Twister - rated extreme. Great day - short sleeves. Left with only two other people on the trail.

All the other Jeeps went on the trail with the ESPN crew! Played on some rocks in the Marble box, scattered with boulders the size of the Texas guy's Zuk. There were maybe five waterfalls to go up. On the first, I had to winch the leader, Randy from the bottom so he could get up. Then he had to strap the rest of us. On the next waterfall I hammered it a little too much and broke an axle U-joint. Then Randy punched a hole in a side wall. Five minutes later, on another waterfall, Rick punched a hole in his side wall. We made it out without incident and had a great time on our first "extreme" rated trail. Got back to camp, had some beer and had a great time talking with others and looking at the day's video.

**Friday:** Amatista Falls, rated hard. Weather for the trip was fine in spite of a little rain. Joe drove the whole way (almost) until he had a close encounter with a rock and poked a small hole (4") in the sidewall of a tire. Discovered the Hi-Lift was broke! We left the rest of the group behind and finished the trail on our own to get a replacement tire, finished the trail with 3-35s and one 33. Went to town, got a new tire, some beer, and felt all better. That night at camp others on our trail complained about how tough the rest of Amatista was and the amount of breakage. Huh??? More beer back at camp.

**Saturday:** Habanero Falls (aka Kronos): rated extreme. This one is so tough they even had a special run on "1" rated trails so spectators could watch us folks with "the best engineered 4x4s" do the 7 falls. They were tough! I needed strapping on two of them. Not a lot of breakage but it was great fun to watch full size vehicles get winched and strapped up the falls. Took all day, I never cease to be amazed at the stupidity of myself and others! Got back to camp in one piece and headed out to the event supper. Great time, excellent Mexican food (what else) and cerveza.

Started the trip back (30 hours worth) at 8pm. The interstate fell apart in Missouri and with the collapsed rear springs on the motor home we felt more bumps on the ride home than on the trail. All in all it was a great trip. Trails were comparable in toughness to the Dakota challenge and equally as much fun.

# Work Weekend Update

Submitted by MaryAnn Callarman



This year's trail building weekends are going great. On Feb 7th, there were even a few non-jeeps along. I hesitate to say they did well on the trails, but they did. There were 25 members present that day to clear trails. O.R. again did a good job of divvying up the workers per trail. Syndy and Durrell kept things organized at McDonald's, they're great at keeping track of members who attend. Be sure to let them know you're there. Remember to bring your insurance cards, you'll be asked to show them. A good number of people, even brand new members, worked on the newest trail. I heard tell it will have some interesting obstacles on it. There also are some great surprises in the works on the other trails. Wish I could tell you, but I can't yet. When you help work the trails, you get to know first hand what's in store.

Feb 21st had 20 members working on 5 trails. Several of the key members had a chance to attend other events out of state this weekend. We managed to get ourselves organized, and the group that was there did a lot of trail building. David Jacobs' crew worked on Mississippi views all morning. Unfortunately for John Toumbs, the afternoon didn't go as well. His engine threw a rod right through the piston. It took Rob's, Rick's and David's winches and straps to pull John's jeep out where they could get it onto David's trailer. Not one to be stranded for long though, John already had another engine put in by the next work week (many thanks to his wife, Sandy).

March 7 had 26 hearty members show up for work. Rain was forecast, but held off long enough for everyone to build 5 of the trails. Sunday's ride was definitely rained out. We have to remember to be mindful of the landowners, and NOT destroy the trails.



March 21 combined trail building with a board meeting. 14 members worked feverishly on County Line trail. With a few more weeks, it should be ready. The board discussed several topics, see the secretary's minutes and the news-flash in this issue.

On Saturday nights many members get together for dinner at several of Pittsfield's restaurants. There's a couple more trail building weekends left, so come on out and join us.

## Names and Faces

Submitted by Joe Budde



It seems the most avid Jeepers are the hardest to get a hold of, they're busy from morning till late at night, and Hamer Tate is one active man. Whether its at work in Valley City running the Tate Cheese Company, engaging in community functions, or working on his farm, Hamer is both energetic and unpretentious.

Hamer and his spouse Jenny (since 1983) live in Griggsville. They own 289 acres of Pike Co. and its here that Hamer provides us with the Ridge Rambler Trail (rated 3). Hamer is not only a land owner but also on the Board of Directors of Two Rivers Jeep Club. He has owned a Jeep since 1984 and currently has four in his stock, a TJ, Grand, CJ8 (restoring), and his main ride is a 1986 CJ7 (Mudlark).

His first modification was to a stock CJ7 when he installed a Dana 44, locker, and lift.

Hamer has worked on all five Land of Lincoln Jeep Jamboree's but also enjoys traveling to get his four wheel drive fix. Hamer's been to Drummond Island (MI), Northwoods (WI), Kansas, and Old Oregon Jamboree.

Hamer recalled the trip to Drummond Island in 1994 in which Jenny was driving the Mudlark. Seems there was a monster mud hole that was made even more difficult by the logs strewn along the bottom. The sight of others being winched out of this obstacle didn't bother Jenny, she maneuvered Mudlark right past the sticking point and popped out the other side.



The Tate's enjoy four-wheeling together, but the best part is sharing their lifestyle with us.

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## New Members

Let's welcome the following new members:

- Ted Borys, Warrenville
- Matt Bradshaw, Pittsfield
- Doug and Kim Harter, Pittsfield
- Mark Kinne, Quincy
- Dusty Poore, Rockport
- Scott Rozman, Madison, WI
- Dena Smith, Pleasant Hill
- John Brownlee, Decatur
- Craig Jesseman, Sugar Grove
- Jaromir Svoboda, Schiller Park
- Scott Dickerson, Chatham
- Richard Majka, Melrose Park
- Graham McNeill, Naperville
- Sean Burger, Capron
- Jeff Fleming, Portage, IN
- Wes and Patty Henness, Macomb

# Public Relations

Submitted by MaryAnn Callarman

There are several ways our club plans to enhance public relations and help the Pike County community. In 1998 we are gathering donations for the following groups:

- **eye glasses** ..... for Lion's Club ..... at the June 13th Father's Day run
- **picnic supplies** ..... for Kepley house ..... at the July 4th run
- **school supplies**..... for outreach..... at Aug. 8th Pokey's run
- **mittens & kids coats** ..... for outreach..... at the Oct 24th Ma Earth run

So save all those old eye glasses and bring them to the meeting on June 13th. Bring them earlier if you wish, I'll hang onto them until June.



Also, during the Christmas season we want to donate food to the seniors in Pittsfield. Frank & Jude Fleeger have generously offered storage space, so bring donations to any club event throughout the year. Remember, these have to be nonperishable items. Also soaps and shampoos are appreciated.

➡ This was our first collection!

## *There's More . . . . .*

Another way for us to donate to the community is through a program that AT&T offers. The Pittsfield schools are already enrolled in the program. It's simple, when you use AT&T as your residential long distance carrier. For every dollar of qualifying long distance calls you make, AT&T automatically awards the school 5 learning points. The school can use these points toward computer hardware and software. All you do to sign up for this is call the toll free number and give them the school code number. **Sherri Hansler** will have printed enrollment forms with those numbers available at the next club function.

**FOUR WHEELER**  
 **AIR DATES**  
**SHOW DESCRIPTIONS**  
**ESPN 2**

#	Air Date	Show Description
3	<b>April 13</b>  <b>5:30PM CST</b>  <b>11:00PM CST</b>	<b>The Las Cruces Winter Quarterly: A question of balance</b>  Here we find some of the best engineered 4x4s from California, Arkansas, New Mexico, Arizona--and from as far as Illinois --converging on Las Cruces, New Mexico to test their machines, their driving skill, and their nerve in the warm, dry, high desert environment.  It's the classic scenario: Incredible crawlers verses the impossible trail obstacle, a contest between man, machine, and hard rock. The day's driving will include slippery, dust-covered rock surfaces; steep climbs; and difficult off-camber lines through a deceptive extreme trail very few have yet seen or navigated.  Tire placement, throttle control, correct reading of the terrain and equipment reliability all come into play. The trail is unforgiving--one mistake and you roll. Well-tested safety equipment is mandatory.  Plus: Highlights of the 1997 Top Truck Challenge hillclimb event, more great home video, calendar and the editors demonstrating deep water crossing strategy.
4	<b>April 27</b>	<b>Triathlon</b>  Safari Triathlon in Ocala, Florida, a non-stop, 50-hour test of four wheel driving, navigation ability, concentration and the ability to keep going in the face of fatigue and a challenging environment. Plus: 1997 Top Truck Challenge Mud Bog highlights, calendar, home video contest winner, and hill driving safety tip.
5	<b>June 1</b>	<b>Moab</b>  Highlights, including 22 challenging and scenic trails and navigation analysis across some of the most difficult obstacles in the nation. It's a setting where inches make the difference between success and failure, between routine and rollover.  Plus: 1997 Top Truck Challenge Obstacle Course highlights, home video contest winner, calendar, ATV tread lightly! driving tip, and the Four Wheeler editors demonstrate sand driving technique.
6	<b>July 6</b>	<b>Colorado's Toughest</b>  Is Colorado's 21 Road actually the toughest trail in the nation...or just the toughest trail in Colorado? Decide for yourself as we accompany a group of experienced four wheelers testing themselves against this trail.  Plus: Calendar, Four Wheeler editors' 60-second driving tip, viewer home video contest winner, history quiz and event calendar.
7	<b>August 3</b>	<b>More from Moab</b>  Highlights from the 1998 Easter Jeep Safari, as captured by our team of camera men, and more analysis of the most infamous trails around, the incredible 4x4s, and the thrill seekers who try them.

<http://www.fourwheeler.com/fwtv/showdesc.htm>

# New Illinois Four Wheel Drive Association

Submitted by Brian Frank



Did you ever hear anyone ask "Where can you go wheeling?" or "Why have they closed that piece of land?" Well part of the reason for those questions is that Illinois doesn't have any location for legal public wheeling. Illinois is not about to have any in the near future because no one is in Springfield fighting for our rights! Currently Illinois has trails for snowmobiles, bike and quads. Unfortunately the full size trucks and Jeeps were left out.

That's where we come in. City Boyz Jeepin' and the Mudslingers 4X4 Club are currently forming an Illinois Four Wheel Drive Association (ILFWDA). We have the support of 9 clubs with 3 others waiting in the wings. Our by-laws are done, and in April, we will hold our first meeting. At that meeting the executive board will be elected. Once this happens, we can become incorporated and exist in the eyes of the politicians.

Once the paperwork is out of the way we can get down to the business at hand: **obtaining public property for wheeling.** This will be no easy task. We will need all the support we can get, both individually and corporate. Individual charter memberships in the IL4WDA are only \$25.00. The club fees have not been voted upon as yet. This money will be used for the initial filing fees and to help get our cause off the ground. If you have any questions, or you wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact Brian Frank at 630-968-7751.

***Please join today, we are all in this together!***

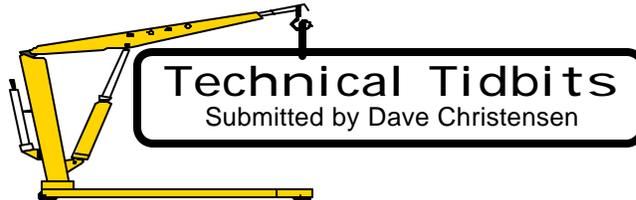
Update - - -

We will have a meeting Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Christensen's in Warrenville to select the ILFWDA Board so we can submit our paperwork to Springfield. **We need you to attend!** Also, if you wish to be a charter member, bring your dues (\$25) so we will have the funds to get this rolling. Please try to make this very important meeting. RSVP to Brian at 630-968-7751. **Please, we need your help if we are to ever get this off the ground!**



# Newsletter Deadline: May 31

The next newsletter deadline will be May 31<sup>st</sup>. Please, submit all your articles and photos by then. Thanks ! !



## Trailers with Dexter Axles

If you trailer your Jeep and have 3500 lb or less Dexter axles, single or tandem, there are several things you need to be aware of.

1. The wheel bearings loosen up after the first few thousand miles. Make sure they are tight. **Finger tighten them only!** If they are too tight they will heat up and burn out.
2. If you repack the bearings, tighten them up, run it for a few hundred miles and re-check both the lug nuts and the bearings, especially the bearings since they **will** loosen up.
3. If you have more than 10,000 miles on your trailer, check the spring and shackle bushings very carefully. Dexter uses parts made in China and the bushings are made of a very thin plastic that wears out quickly giving excessive play in the suspension. Not only that, they are non-greaseable. Dexter will gladly sell you an upgrade for their axles that:
  - Make them fully greaseable
  - replaces the plastic bushings with heavy duty bronze
  - replaces all the spring and shackle bolts with ones that have grease zerks
  - replaces the tandem axle equilizer with one that has bronze bushings and a zerk
  - replaces the shackles with ½" thick steel shackles

The kit costs about \$85 and is available from Dexter's Customer Service at (219) 295-1900. I nearly avoided a major problem by catching this in time on mine.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or hints you'd like to share with the club, please let me know and we'll publish them.



## Youngest Trail Builders

by Gina Zoetvelt

The youngest member of the club, Mary Kate Zoetvelt, enjoyed her first trail building weekend as much as anyone else. While Screamin' Jeepin' and myself helped scout out a trail, she oohed and aahed, played with her toys, and took a little snooze from time to time. After the trails, she headed back to Green Acres for a bath and another snooze. She greatly enjoyed the annual dinner, watching the balloons and the other kids running round. It wasn't long before she pooped out from all the excitement. After all she worked hard kicking those legs and moving those arms (baby aerobics) every time she saw something she liked. She's looking forward to the next weekend when she can help out again.



### Update:

We now have a new member younger than Mary Kate. Congratulations to John and Laurie Huebner on the arrival of Amy, born March 5.

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## Member Mishaps

by Bill "Screamin' Jeepin'" Zoetvelt

"Hey John, watch out for that tree!" . . . sheesh that was close!  
or dang, "What's next a blown engine?"

For those of you that didn't know who that was in last month's Blooper of the Month, that was our Editor of the Blooper of the Month, Screamin' Jeepin', Bill Zoetvelt, practicing his underwater driving skills. As you saw, he didn't get very far.

So again don't be afraid to send him your or your friend's pictures and stories of a good stuck.

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



First Class