



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 6, Issue 4

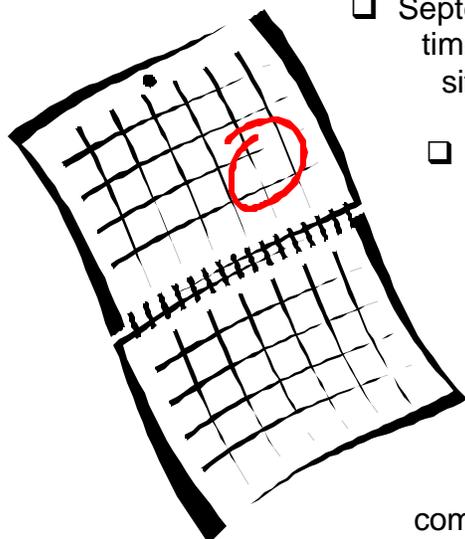
August 2003

News 2 Use

by Dave Christensen

By the time you get this, the 5th annual 4x4 *BLAST* will be only a few days away. Our October issue will cover the event but for now we would like to give a big **"THANK YOU!"** to the 100+ people (helpers, landowners, trail guides) who ensure that over 200 separate jobs are successfully completed in order to make an event like this work. Organizing an event of this magnitude is a difficult and time consuming process – thanks again to all who have given their time and talent to make this happen not once, but twice each year!

Congratulations to Rick Culberson who volunteered to be the 2004 Illini 4x4 Safari coordinator.



- September 20 will be the Rock Run. No details are available at this time, however information will be sent out and also posted on the web site.
- Please reserve October 11 for the Annual General Meeting, elections and Ma Earth Run. There will be important issues that will need to be addressed and voted on so please plan on attending. We'll have breakfast starting at 7:00 AM at the VFW followed by the meeting, elections and a great trail ride. More information will be sent and posted on the web site.
- October 18-19 is the Pike County Fall Color Tour. In the past, TRJC members have provided trail rides for the public. This is always a great time. If you are available that weekend, come on down!
- The "Boyz from Illinoiz" will once again be attending the 21st annual Dakota Challenge in the Black Hills over the Labor Day weekend. Look for some great stories when they return.
- Congratulations TRJC! We are listed in the September 2003 Issue of 4 Wheeler under "400 Awesome clubs..." Also our website has been listed in the last two issues of Blue Ribbon Magazine under "Hot Sites to see on the World Wide Web."

2003 Officers, Board Members, and Committees

Officers and Board Members

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TRJC Web Page: <http://www.trjc.com/>
Club e-mail: trjc@trjc.com
Club phone: 630-717-5337 (JEEP)

Membership: Annual membership in Two Rivers Jeep Club runs from January 1 through December 31. First time memberships accepted after June 1 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 \$60.00 for members who have participated in two work events (or equivalent) in the past year and \$120 for first year new members or those who have not met the work requirement. Landowners are given a complimentary membership.

Newsletter Deadlines: This newsletter is published 6 times a year (**February, April, June, August, October, and December.**) All articles and photos are due by the 15th of the month before the newsletter will be published.

Newsletter Article Submission

All articles and photos should be submitted to the appropriate columnist listed below. If you're not sure who to send it to, you can always send it directly to the newsletter Editor. 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 (medium to high-resolution), will also be accepted. (Low resolution Jpg won't work.) Scanned photos may be sent directly to davec@millenicom.com

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Club Affiliations UFWDA/ILFWDA	Gina Zoetvelt	Stlscreamn@aol.com	708-479-9600
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Trip Reporter	Dave Christensen	davec@millenicom.com	630-393-3314

Next Newsletter Deadline: September 20

Friday 16 May, 2003 - Front Nine

Submitted by Dan Bowman



It started out as a typical Illinois day. A kind of wet, kind of cool, (is it going to rain?) springtime day. Our group on the Front Nine consisted of a wide variety of Jeep vehicles, from 1952 M38A1 and a 1960 CJ3B all the way up to the current iteration of the Wrangler, a nicely prepared and driven black TJ. Our trail guides, Kathleen & Heyward Ball and Doug "Peej" Maxheimer, did an outstanding job of keeping the group going on what was, at times, some difficult patches of Illinois terra firma. From my perspective the 3 rating was a little conservative. That's really only because my son and I got the chance to see the bottom of our Jeep from a whole new perspective when hooking up the winch cable to pull it back on its set of Pro Comp Mud terrain's!

Someone once told me it's all about clearance, and the Front Nine testifies to that. There were numerous off-camber and steep hill climbs with a little midwestern mud thrown in to make it interesting. Good thing there was plenty of large trees for winch anchor points.



The Midwest Jeep Club from the Quad Cities was well represented by me, Evan Bowman, Brad Marion, Dave Koenig, Dave Circello, and Leslie Carlson.

Brad Marion used his winch just once. The Cherokee surprised a lot of us with its agility. The CJ3B was a little under powered but hung right in there, and the TJ/ CJ5 family team could do it all. If one of them couldn't make it the other one showed him how. Good four-wheel'n family fun! ~





A 4-Wheeler's Guide to Tools

Submitted by Dave Christensen

AIR COMPRESSOR: A machine that takes energy produced in a power plant hundreds of miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to a Chicago Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty suspension bolts last tightened 20 years ago by someone in the factory and rounds them off.



AVIATION METAL SNIPS: See hacksaw.

BATTERY ELECTROLYTE TESTER: A handy tool for transferring sulfuric acid from car battery to the inside of your toolbox after determining that your battery is dead as a doornail, just as you thought.

CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 16-INCH SCREWDRIVER: A large motor mount prying tool that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end - - - without the handle.

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against the Rolling Stones poster over the bench grinder.

EIGHT-FOOT LONG DOUGLAS FIR 2X4: Used for levering a vehicle upward off a hydraulic jack whose handle is trapped firmly under the front wheel.



ELECTRIC DRILL: Normally used for spinning steel pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age, but it also works great for drilling roll cage mounting holes in the floor of a vehicle just above the brake line that goes to the rear axle.

E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR: A tool that snaps off in bolt holes and is ten times harder than any known drill bit.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer now is used as a kind of divining rod to locate expensive car parts not far from the object we are trying to hit.



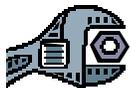
HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering a vehicle to the ground after you have installed a new set of springs, trapping the jack handle firmly under the front wheel.

MECHANIC'S KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works equally well on errantly placed fingers.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH (aka the "Blue Wrench"): Used almost in its entirety to heat stuck bolts to near the melting point so when you try to loosen them, the bolt heads which by then are the consistency of soft putty, round off. This is much more efficient at rounding bolt heads than the pliers or vise-grips.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Used, as the name implies, to round off Phillips screw heads.

PHONE: Tool for calling your neighbor to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack after you broke the eight-foot long Douglas fir 2x4.



PLIERS, also CRESCENT WRENCH or SPANNER: Used to round off bolt heads.

SNAP-ON GASKET SCRAPER: Theoretically useful as a sandwich tool for spreading mayonnaise; used mainly for getting "green" mud off your boot.

TIMING LIGHT: A stroboscopic instrument for illuminating grease buildup on crankshaft pulleys.

TROUBLE LIGHT: The mechanic's own tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop light (for obvious reasons), it is a good source of vitamin D, "the sunshine vitamin", which is not otherwise found under cars at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume light bulbs faster than one could possibly buy them at the store. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.



TWEEZERS: A tool for removing wood and metal splinters.

TWO-TON HYDRAULIC ENGINE HOIST: A handy tool for testing the tensile strength of ground straps and hydraulic lines you may have forgotten to disconnect.



WISE-GRIPS: Also used to round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans rust off old bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints from your fingers and hard-earned guitar calluses in about the time it takes you to say, "Oh shit!"



WANTED

“Fresh Blood”

Two Rivers Jeep Club members in good standing that have been in the club for over one year are needed to challenge the 3 Board Members up for re-election or retirement this October.

This is your chance to make a difference, to challenge the way the club is being run, and to bring new ideas to the table.

Please contact secretary@trjc.com or 630 416-6625 for information about becoming a member of the Board of Directors.

**The Annual General Meeting is
Oct. 11th, 2003**

2003 Father's Day Club Run

by Syndy 'Nutz' Miller



True to tradition, this year's Father's Day Run lived up to it's billing of FUN FUN FUN! With lots of sunshine and water wars galore, we had a great turnout for our annual romp over Father's Day weekend. With well over the estimated 100 participants, the club opened up a wide variety of trials for members to choose from.

I can't speak for the other trails but Black Oak Run was a riot. We got plenty of rain just days prior to the event which made for some slick spots. We started the day armed to the hilt with squirt guns and 200+ water balloons primed and ready

for action. I got to drive all morning so it was a little tough to retaliate on the many sneak attacks our vehicle received. We did manage to soak more than our share of unsuspecting victims.

As for the trail ride, we started out on the North Hill and everyone was doing fine until Dr. Dork (Ed Leech) got stuck on Ballbreaker. That took a little maneuvering to get him moving again and shortly thereafter, one of the guests blew out a tire in the same spot. Trail repairs were made and we were soon rolling on our way to Plumbers Crack. No problems there so on we went to run the little crick, up the big hill, through the woods and over to the Washouts! As is almost always the case, we managed to get a few people stuck in the muck there and after some winching and tugging, we headed back to the bunkhouse for a lunch break.



After lunch our tour guide and long time chief trailmaster, Rooster, led us on our way to Winch Hill via the loop 'd loops and dippy doo. Winch hill claimed more than one victim including us. (No, I wasn't driving anymore... can't be blamed for this one!) Somehow 'we' managed to bend our tie rod seriously enough to make it impossible to turn right. We limped back to the garage for repairs. While we were gone, Gadget (Frank Fleeger) broke a yoke on his rear diff.

From winch hill, the trail headed west

to Thunder Run for some technical challenges before ending in 6 Mile Crick to play in the mud bogs. The main attractions were Rooster's roosters, Sponge Bob's watercraft and Screamin' Bill. After the many obligatory 'stucks' which often require snatch-blocks attached to multiple winches anchored by straps, the gang headed for home to prepare for the evenings festivities.

Sparky made the food run into town returning with KFC to feed 125, plus 11 pizza's from Giovanni's. We enjoyed

Amish baked goods for dessert along with a boat load of entertainment from our M.C., Billy Z. This years event was dedicated to raising funds for Heartworks Photography, Inc, a non-profit charity co-founded by two of our very own club members. The event was an astounding success as we raised



\$1,683.50 on Saturday night to which the club will add a matching donation netting nearly \$3,400. (For more information about Heartworks, please visit their web site at www.heartworksphoto.org)



Evening highlights included the auctioning off of some incriminating photographs along with an impromptu offer from Tom to get Bill to shut up. He offered Bill \$1 for every pretzel nugget he could put in his mouth without chewing, swallowing or drinking.. We all knew Bill had a big mouth but no one suspected he could stuff 18 pretzels in there! Several others jumped in on the offer and thanks to Tom's idea and Bill's big mouth, \$220 was collected!

A case of Miller Lite was auctioned for \$120 to none other than my hubby and I think Sparky is still in hot water over the purchase of a Jeep tent he won in an auction war for \$200. Seems after he bought the tent, he needed the Liberty to go with it. Rumor has it his \$200 tent actually cost him the price of a new Jeep. The 8x10 glossy of Tom's Jeep stuck in 6 Mile brought in the most cash: a whopping \$753.50! (Gee, I wonder what Rooster is going to do with that picture??!)

In the end, we gave away over 50 door prizes including items donated from local merchants like free night stays at the local motels and free food from the local restaurants, but the grandfather of all prizes was given to Tom Miller and his family... a free scenic plane ride from Pittsfield Airport courtesy of Gregg Carnes at Carnes Trailer World.

We topped off the evening around the campfire with some special 'fruit punch' courtesy of Angela and Rowdy. Tom and Debbie introduced the latest and greatest in margarita making machines with their gasoline powered 2-stroke mixer. The campfire broke up around midnight and after a quick clean-up, we all called it a day.



Durrell and I want to say a special thanks to the many people who contributed to making this event such a huge success. Thank you to all the Club Members who participated and so generously donated to our fundraiser for Heartworks. Also, thanks to all the friends who helped us set up and clean up the party. This great group of friends includes Rooster & family, Sparky, Screamin', Dr. Dork, Sponge Bob, Gadget & JJ. Last but not least, we'd like to express our many thanks to the businesses in Pittsfield who donated the dozens of door prizes that were given away.

The following merchants contributed door prizes to our event. Please say 'thanks' next time you frequent their locations!

Carnes Trailer World (Pittsfield)
Faze II (Addison)
WTC (Carol Stream)
Jeep of DuPage (Wheaton)
TNT Farm (Martinsburg)
Green Acres Motel (Pittsfield)
Motel Pike (Pittsfield)
Sweats by Beck (Pittsfield)

Walmart (Pittsfield)
Giovanni's Pizza (Pittsfield)
High Spirits Liquor (Pittsfield)
Einsteins Bagels (Naperville)
Hardees (Pittsfield)
Subway (Pittsfield)
Wine Nook @ the Red Dome (Pittsfield)

Thanks everyone! We'll see you next year... same time, same place!

From TNT Farm, Durrell & Syndy.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to TRJC:

Josh Willman - Pittsfield, IL

Tim Sidener - Illiopolis, IL - 81 CJ7, 1947 and 1948 CJ2A, 92 Cherokee

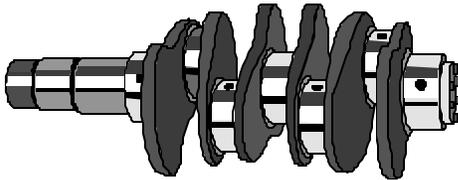
Timothy Cardinal - Naperville, IL - 02TJ

Brandon Hough - Centralia, MO - 95YJ

Paul Jon Etavard - Joliet, IL - 91YJ

Jeremy Perrone - Foristell, MO - 98 XJ

Robert Bill - Joliet, IL - 96 Cherokee



Classifieds

TJ parts for sale:

Dana 30 front axle; very low miles, surface rust from sitting, 3.73 with open carrier, complete - brakes, hubs, etc. Make me an offer.

4" Tera-flex lift; 4 springs, 4 lower flex arms, t-case spacers, bumpstop spacers, front sway disconnects, rear sway extended links- PLUS options added; 4 upper flex arms, front & rear adjustable trac bars, rear shock relocater brackets. (new worth 1600 +) \$900

Stock front & rear bumpers (no plastic ends) like new! \$ 50 ea

Turbo city nerf bars (coated in Herculiner) new 250 sell \$175

Olympic Moutaineer rack (fits over rear seat area) new 170 sell \$100

Bestop combo (safari bikini, windjammer, duster) no tears new 200+ sell \$100

(5) Super Swamper SX 35x15.50-15, low street miles, shows trail wear, mounted on 4 MRT 15x10 black steel beadlocks and 1 15x10 MRT black steel wheel (D window style wheels) BOLT PATTERN IS 5x5.5 new cost over 1700 asking \$990

All prices are negotiable. Call Jim Plesko at 847/698-4193. Leave a message if no answer. I'll be at the Blast in Aug and can bring it then or we can make other arrangements.~

Feature Jeep

Submitted by Sparky

This month's feature Jeep is a combo! 2003 & 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overlands owned by Jude Fleeger & Syndy Miller. These beautiful Jeeps have all the creature comforts of a Cadillac, yet offer the capability of a Jeep. I expect to see these two at the Blast this summer, ready to run with Hamer!! Syndy even has a navigation system in case she gets lost on the trail (I wonder if it will tell you how to get up the hill, too?). Check out the picture. If you would like to see your Jeep grace these pages, just send me some of your favorite pics to sparky@aans.org



SPECS:

- 4.7 HO motor
- Moon roof
- Leather & suede interior heated front seats
- CD player & changer
- Heated seats
- 1" taller suspension
- Off-road package (including tow hooks & skid plates
- Tow package (bigger gears to make it go VROOM!)
- Syndy's adds adjustable foot pedals and a navigation system ~

Kyle June 3, 2003
My uncle is nice to me because he lets me ride his tractor. When I do his lawn he gives me money. He even lets me sleep over nights, and he drives me home. My uncle also takes me to see monster jeeps at my friend Rooster's house. It was cool seeing them drive over cars. My uncle even let me drive one named Screamin'. My uncle also lets me play with his puppy named Crazy. He lets me take pictures of him with his camera. I love my uncle.

NewBob asked us to print this letter along with the following background information.

This is from from 7 year old Kyle Mihalcean. Kyle is my neighbor Paul Miller's nephew who attended our Memorial Day picnic at Rooster's. His teacher had them practice writing by telling about what they did over the weekend.

Thanks, Bob, for the information. Can't start 'em Jeepin' too early!!

Two Rivers Jeep Club
C/O Graham McNeill
28W117 Countryview Drive
Naperville IL 60564

