



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 7, Issue 2

April 2004

Upcoming Events

Dave Christensen

Our next newsletter won't be out until after the Safari. There's a lot going on between now and then!

Sat. April 3: Trailbuilding
Sat. April 17: More trailbuilding
Fri. April 30: Soil Conservation Program (note the new date!)
Sat. May 1: Advanced Recovery and Rescue Course
Sat. May 8: Last minute work weekend, only if needed
May 13-16: 3rd annual 4x4 Safari
Mon. May 24: Registration for the 4x4 BLAST opens
Sat. June 5: Memorial Day picnic
June 11-13: Illinois Four Wheel Drive Assoc. Convention

1. Trailbuilding:

Check the web page for updates. If you aren't online, check with someone who is. For those of you not online, sorry about this. We just don't have the volunteers to staff the club phone with updates.

If nothing is posted to the contrary on the web page, that means the trail building is on.

Please don't send emails asking whether the trail building has been cancelled due to bad weather – check the web site instead. We're getting so many bogus emails and viruses that I can't separate the real email from the crap. Please note that May 8 will be used **only** if there is additional work to be completed before the Safari. Again, information will be posted on the web site.

2. Tri-County Conservation and Ag Day

Two Rivers is sponsoring the Tri-County Conservation and Ag Day at the Orr Research Center/John Wood Community College, Hwy 104, Perry, IL on April 30 from 9 AM to 2 PM. Please note the date change. Over 600 kids will be attending this event with exhibits from the Brown, Pike and Adams Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Illinois EPA, and the University of Illinois Extension Services. We will have a station set up and the kids will be able see our vehicles and ask questions. This is a great opportunity to help promote our hobby! If you can attend, with your Jeep, please try to do so. Walt Gilbert is coordinating this event. Contact him if you have any questions or if you plan to attend. **Please RSVP to him so you can be notified if the event is changed to another day due to bad weather.**

3. Advanced Recovery and Rescue Course

This course will be offered in lieu of the work weekend May 1. All guides and those who assist on the trails are asked to attend. It's important that as many guides and helpers as possible get this training before the Safari. This course will be open to a limited number of other members also, but guides and helpers will be given priority.

The 8 hour course will consist of about 2 hours classroom instruction followed by 3 hands-on scenarios and finally a debriefing.

- ❑ The first scenario will be a stuck vehicle requiring winching to get out, but also winching to stabilize it.
- ❑ The second scenario will involve a non-life threatening hand injury. We will have to deal not only with the medical emergency but an hysterical passenger.
- ❑ The third scenario will be a roll over where the driver sustained a neck or spine injury and cannot move his extremities. We will need to call 911 and the Pleasant Hill Volunteer Fire Department will respond to stabilize and extricate the victim. This one will require significant coordination. The Fire Department is also considering the use of air evacuation helicopter for this scenario.

Few instructions will be given during the scenarios. Solutions will not be offered as there likely is no single (nor necessarily correct) solution. The participants will be required to figure out what needs to be done and the instructors will be there to "blow the whistle" only when an obviously incorrect or unsafe suggestion is made. Participants will have to figure this out as if they were on a trail. The instructors are there only to provide guidance as necessary.

Date/Time/Place:

- Saturday May 1, 8:30 AM – 5 PM, **Rockport Off Road Park**, rain or shine . Check www.rorp.com or call 217-437-5337 for directions. The classroom instruction will be held in the red barn behind Tom's house starting **promptly at 8:30**. Bring your own chairs. There will be no breakfast at the VFW that morning. Eat breakfast before you arrive. Bring a lunch with you. This will be a very busy day!
- This is in lieu of a work weekend.
- Tom's appreciation party/dinner will be in the evening starting right after the debriefing.
- All members of the Pleasant Hill VFD and EMS are invited to attend so we can talk with them, ask questions, etc.

Attendees:

- Trail Guides and helpers are "required" to attend.
- Other TRJC members can attend but will be observers only.
- Class limit is 70 people.
- **RSVPs are required** for the course and the party. Email secretary@trjc.com to RSVP. If you do not have email, call 630 717 5337 to RSVP. **You MUST RSVP by April 26.**
- People can attend the party and not the course if they wish.
- There is no cost for the course nor the party/dinner.
- Last minute information will be posted on the web site.

4. 3rd Annual Illini 4x4 Safari

The Safari is set for May 13 – 15. Once again we are filled. We need people to volunteer to write articles about the event and take photos. Contact Dave Christensen or Jude Fleeger if you can help. Rick Culberson is the event coordinator for this and the BLAST in August. If there are any questions, please contact him directly.

5. Memorial Day Picnic

Rooster once again is sponsoring the annual Memorial Day picnic and demolition derby in Mokena. If you have never experienced this “event” you are really missing something as 4WD vehicles climb over and systematically destroy a couple of junkers. This will more than likely be the only notice you will get. Contact Bob at (708) 478-5520 or liltexsun@sbcglobal.net.

6. Illinois Four Wheel Drive Association's Convention

Hold June 11 – 13 for ILFWDA's first convention at the Rockport Off Road Park. There will be two days of wheeling, a hog roast, 4x4 scavenger hunt, and more. Plans are also in place to have an Illinois State Legislator present. You can register online now at www.ilfwda.org or use the RSVP form in the newsletter. This promises to be an outstanding event.

Lake Shore Drive

By Mike Phillips



The weather was great, a little overcast in the morning with a chill. The afternoon turned into a beautiful warm and sunny day. This weekend we had 7 Jeeps along with 11 workers and a few kids that had a lot of fun. The workers were Alan Grady, Mike & Chris Phillips, Allen Huntington, Doug Maxheimer, Bill Jolly, Carol Kinda, Allen Gephardt, and Craig Laurich. We cut, pulled, tossed and trimmed. We had one breakdown while trying a section of the trail with a tall waterfall. A CJ hung up pretty bad and broke his rear drive shaft. It had to be winched out by Alan Grady's well equipped YJ and up a hillside to the main trail. Sorry, but they got away before I could get their names. While the recovery work was going on the rest of us kept working. We didn't get everything done, so there is more to do. Bring your tools and help get a trail in shape for the summer fun!

Jeep Safety Inspections

Larry (Tank) Schultz is again offering to perform safety inspections at his shop in Plainfield. All Jeeps must be safety inspected before heading out on the trails. Larry will inspect your Jeep and issue the sticker (if your Jeep passes) or will advise you in getting it ready for the trail. Call Larry at 630 904 0730 or tankerschultz@aol.com to set up an appointment.

This will save you time down in Pittsfield and more importantly save you a long trip if you fail to pass.

Trail Building 2-21-04

By Mike Phillips



My son Chris and myself left Joliet at 4 AM. The roads to I-80 had a sheet of ice on them and the salt that had just been put down was useless. We hoped I-80 and I-55 were salted early enough to do some good. They were salted pretty good. The Swampers on my TJ felt like they didn't want to hold the road very well, so I took it slow and easy. The further south, the better the highway became. We pulled into the VFW parking lot without incident and were glad we made it in one piece.

We found Doug Maxheimer for our trail assignment. He said the trail would be Lake Shore Drive today, so off we went to the trail with the other workers for the day. We had 7.5 workers and 3 Jeeps. Carson Tortorige (WJ), Alan Grady and son Thomas (YJ), Mike Phillips and son Chris (TJ), Craig Laurich, Jim Smith and Doug Maxheimer hitching a ride. We had our work cut out for us. The trees were across the trail and some stacked 3 and 4 high. We started cutting the trees up and moving them to the side. When we got in the creek bottom, Alan winched the trees up on the creek banks whenever possible. Carson and Chris did a lot of cable pulling and rigging. When we had no place to put the trees we cut them up and pulled them out with the Jeeps to a clear spot. We put in a pretty hard day with a lot more needing to be cleared for another day.



New Members

Please welcome the following new members to Two Rivers!

Zach Green, Jacksonville, IL - 82 J10

Richard Gross/JoAnn Liesen, Quincy IL - 97 TJ, 76 CJ5, 82 J10 jeepnut@adams.net

Trail of Life

Submitted by Chief

I thought Spring was really getting close and as I look at the calendar, it is. But as I sit to write this column, the weather channel is telling me to expect 1 to 3 inches of snow tonight. There is just something about weather and its predictable unpredictability. I recently read a quote that stated, "Don't knock the weather. Nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if the weather didn't change once in a while." Well, I am kind of that way with this column. If it wasn't for the weather I wouldn't be able to begin. I seem to be in a creative void lately. The pressure of coming up with a cute and clever story every couple of months has really taken its toll. Plus, I am so busy now doing "fun stuff," and the paper route, (see last issue), I just don't have the time to sit and ponder like I used to. That's where most of my ideas came from. Pondering. It seems when I was working a regular job, pondering time was built into the job. Being a telecommunication employee, I spent half of my time sitting on "hold" waiting for someone else to finish their pondering so I could finish my work. On my own time now, I just don't have the time to ponder about life and my experiences as I did then. Truly, pondering seems to be a luxury of the working class. So, I am saying all this in a plea for help. I really need people to send me information to put in this column. Then we can read about the interesting things everyone else is doing, share in the joys, and provide support in time of sorrows. I would even accept interesting stories of **your** TRAIL of LIFE experiences for a change of pace. To submit your information: chief351hfpd@msn.com or Steve Gambrell, 396 N. Sunnyside Rd. Decatur, Illinois 62522

Concerns:

Frank Fleeger is recovering from a broken back suffered at work in January. Although it's a slow process, each day is a little better and he is starting to be up and around a bit.

Billy Walston will be undergoing back surgery in the near future. More information to follow.

THANK YOU from Frank Fleeger

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many friends who sent cards and flowers, and who took the time to call with get well wishes after my accident. It all helped to put a smile on my face!!

Words of Wisdom:

- Nothing is less important than the score at half time.
- Experience is what you get just after you need it.
- The older I get, the better I was.

See Ya on the Trail
Chief ~

Kickoff Run 2004

By Mike Kavka



“A good day Jeeping is still better than a bad day at the office.” This describes the Kickoff 2004 snow run at Rockport Off Road Park perfectly. There were around 10-15 Jeeps that went to Rockport for Jeeping after the

breakfast at the VFW hall. They went from heavily modified to a completely stock TJ. Walt was our trail leader and he started out taking us through the creek toward the Back 40 area. The slide down into the creek went well, but at one point where we got up and out of the creek, the first damage was done.



The next thing that happened was Bob Kavka backing up to get some momentum for a hill and having to winch himself out of a rut. Not too long after, Walt was checking out a an ice and snow covered section of the trail, when he broke through the ice.



This started up the fun competition between Walt and Rick testing the ice.



Of course this ended when Walt had to get strapped twice on the same hole.

Later in the afternoon we all went up to the

Wolves Den area where Alan was not able to get under a fallen tree. We used two straps, a winch, and a block and tackle system to raise the tree so he could fit under it. The canyon we were in was so small that we could not back up to try and take a bypass. Thanks to Walt, Rick, Tom Wombles, and Rockport Off Road park for a great day.



Random Thoughts from Hell'ngone

By the "old Doc"

Met a new neighbor the other day, moved up from Kalifornia, to be a cowboy. Now we all know that The Peoples Republic of Kalifornia has a slightly peculiar way of looking at things when compared to the rest of us but some of the ideas Tad brought with him to Montana just don't seem to work real well in "The last great place."

Tad moved up in late summer bought a little ranch down the road and declared he was "gonna raise cows and horses" well, so far so good - almost everybody in the area raises cows or horses. Seems as though Tad was having a little trouble with his irrigation pump (you know, in versus out.) Anyway, after getting his plumbing hooked up correctly and getting some water in the stock tank he took me on a tour of his spread. Now Tad was real proud of his equipment, especially his Dodge diesel dually one ton with a fifth wheel horse trailer about a mile long. So we jumped in the big dually to take the tour of his ranch. While trying to drive up a dusty and rocky path to the top of a bench with much bouncing and spinning I wondered why Tad didn't shift down to granny low and engage the front axle. After a look and a double take I found out why he had not engaged the front axle. There was no transfer case lever to engage, it was a two wheel drive truck. As far as I know Tad owns the only two wheel drive truck in Hell'ngone. When I mentioned that two wheel drive trucks were a little uncommon in these parts, Tad proudly stated "I've never been stuck in this truck." I thought this guy must be one heck of a driver since I've been stuck in just about every vehicle I ever owned.

Didn't see Tad again until the second week of November when he calls up and says "he's just down the road and he has a little problem." So I jump in my trusty Dodge and head down the road to help out. Now by the second week of November we already have a foot of snow on the ground with an inch of ice under that and we really don't expect to see a good hard road again until sometime in late April. My front axle has been engaged since the first snowflake. After a short drive, I find Tad sitting on a section of the road we call the slide. He is very close to falling off the slide so we hook up a snatch strap and pull him away from the edge. Tad claims this didn't count as a stuck (although I'm not sure why?) Anyway, Tad announces that he is going to get studded snow tires for his truck and that will solve his winter driving problems. I don't think he could see me rolling my eye as I had my shades on.

Early January, got a call from Tad who wanted to know if I could give him a lift to town to pick up some chains for his truck. Seems as though he can't quite make it out of his drive to the county road. I know he can't see me rolling my eyes as I'm on the phone. Now Tad still isn't stuck cause he can still drive to the base of the hill that leads to the county road, a distance of almost a half mile. My Dodge with front axle engaged, studded snows, one thousand pound steel plate in the bed and chains will just make it to the county road down my lane. Tad got his chains and that "will be the end of my winter driving problems." Put on sun glasses and roll eyes.

March 16th, drove Tad to the Dodge dealer today. Front axle is still engaged and studded snows are still on, chains are stored in bed tool box. Tad bought a new Dodge Diesel it wasn't the color he wanted, it didn't have the options he wanted, and he paid too much for the truck but, "by God it's four wheel drive!" Next stop Les Schwab for studded snows and chains.

Just thought I'd share this because it illustrates two of my favorite rules:

"It is better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it."

"For every mile of road there are two miles of ditch."

Regards, Doc

Thank You Two Rivers

At the Kick Off Dinner in February, an auction was held and raised \$1057.50 which was presented to the Mounted Angels, a group that provides outdoor recreational opportunities on horseback for children with special needs. Once again, we are giving so much back to the community that welcomes us and our hobby.

Thanks TRJC members!!!!

Dear members of Two Rivers
Jeep Club,

Thanks you so much for
your wonderful & very
generous donation to
Mounted Angels. It is
so kind of all of you to
support Mounted Angels,
& we truly appreciate
you very much.

Your donation will pay
our insurance and purchase
some new helmets.

Thank you!
Children & Volunteers
Mounted Angels

Bloopies

By Bill

On December 25, 2003, Jason Ruble decided to take his "RUBLECON" out for a little Christmas run alone. (You know where this is going, don't you?) He learned a very valuable lesson. 24 hours later, it will take a farm tractor to get your butt out of wherever you think you can go when you're alone!



2004 ILFWDA Convention and Summer Run - June 12th & 13th
at the Rockport Off-Road Park , Illinois' First ORV Park
We welcome all 4wd enthusiasts, from all states to join us.



Friday Evening June 11th:

Bonfire for all Convention attendees that are staying at Pine Lakes Campground.

Saturday June 12th:

- 8 AM:** check-in begins. Arrive on time, last trail leaves at 11 AM.
Guided trail rides for all levels of trail difficulties: stock, modified and extreme.
- Noon:** Lunch will be available to purchase (or bring your own.)
- 5 PM:** Convoy leaves from Park to Pine Lakes Campground in Pittsfield.
- 6 PM:** Hog roast courtesy of Rockport Off-Road Park at Pine Lakes.
One or more Illinois State Legislators will be our guest.
- 8 PM:** Raffle drawing at Pine Lakes and bonfire afterward.

Sunday June 13th:

- 9 AM:** 1 hour ILFWDA meeting at Rockport Off-Road Park.
- 10 AM:** "On your own" trail riding the Park.
Enjoy a scavenger hunt in the woods for great prizes!
- Noon:** Lunch will be available to purchase (or bring your own.)

Fees:

Saturday: \$30/vehicle, one passenger included. Age 14 and under are free. Extra passengers: \$5. Fees include guided trail rides, hog roast and prizes.

Sunday: \$20/vehicle, one passenger included. Age 14 and under are free. Extra passengers: \$5. Trail ride on your own and enjoy a scavenger hunt!

You MUST RSVP by June 7! While no pre-registration is required, we absolutely have to know how many are planning on attending.

Questions about the event may be emailed to ilfwda@ifwda.org

Find more about the Rockport Off-Road Park, including directions at www.rorp.com or call 217-437-5337.

Properly mounted tow hooks or substantially mounted pull points (front and rear) are required. Tow hooks must be either factory mounted or mounted with two grade 5 or grade 8 bolts. Wheelbase is limited to 115" and tire size limited to 40" per DOT lettering. Anything larger must be cleared with Rockport Off Road Park ahead of time.

2004 ILFWDA Convention and Summer Run RSVP Form

Event Date: June 12-13

*This form is for RSVP only. Event fees and T shirts will be paid for at the event.
Do not send money now.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Vehicle Make/Model: _____ Tire Size: _____

Please enter number of participants **Saturday**:

Number of adults: _____ Children under 14: _____

Saturday dinner is included in the price. Please indicate:

Number of adults: _____ Children under 14: _____

Please enter number of participants **Sunday**:

Number of adults: _____ Children under 14: _____

Event T-shirts will be available by pre-order only for \$20 each. Enter quantity:

Small ___ Med ___ Large ___ X-Large ___

Trail Preference: Stock: _____ Modified: _____ Extreme: _____

Please mail this form to:

**ILFWDA
PO Box 923
Midlothian, IL 60445**

Properly mounted tow hooks or substantially mounted pull points (front and rear) are **required**. Tow hooks must be either factory mounted or mounted with two grade 5 or grade 8 bolts. Wheelbase is limited to 115" and tire size limited to 40" per DOT lettering. Anything larger must be cleared with Rockport Off Road Park ahead of time.

2004 Board Members and Responsibilities

Board Members

President	O. R. Freesen	oryellow@hotmail.com	217-754-3505
Vice President	Lee Ator		217-437-5221
Secretary/Treasurer	Graham McNeill	madbrit@jeepingoffroad.com	630-416-6625 Home, 630-355-0956 FAX
Board Member	Walt Gilbert	waltpj@big-river.net	573-324-6464
Board Member	Tim Miller	jeepnwidow@home.com	217-875-2680
Board Member	Bob Lyerla	rcat9@msn.com	708-479-6541
Board Member	Hamer Tate		217-833-2861
Board Member	Jim Catt	jumpercatt@aol.com	815-469-1484
Board Member	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750
Board Member	Tom Wombles	twombles@adams.net	217-437-4361

Responsibilities

Illini 4x4 Safari	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
4x4 Blast	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
Promotional Items	Chad Suhre	suhresp@myhtrn.net	217-742-9818
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Maxheimer	drmmaxheimer@netzero.net	217-287-7470
Public Relations, Newsletter, Web Page	Dave Christensen	davec@millenicom.com	630-393-3314
Newsletter Editor	Jude Fleeger	outbac4x4@aol.com	630-307-7998

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 photos do not print well.) Scanned photos may be sent directly to davec@millenicom.com

Column	Columnist	e-mail	Phone
Blooper Blurb	Bill Zoetvelt	ScremnGepn@aol.com	708-479-9600
Classifieds			
Club Affiliations UFWDA/ILFWDA			
Club Events			
Jeep/Member Spotlight	Tony Prochaska	Sparky@aans.org	815-436-0722
Safety Tips			406-827-8277
Social Coordinator	Steve Gambrell	chief351hfpd@email.msn.com	217-423-4144
Trip Reporter	Dave Christensen	davec@millenicom.com	630-393-3314

Next Newsletter Deadline: May 25

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

