



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 9 Issue 2

April 2006

News 2 Use

Spring is here and it's wheelin' time. There a lot happening within our club over the new few months.

- **Trail Builders** – We only have 3 Trail Builders left before the Safari: **Apr. 8, Apr. 22 and May 6.** We'll need your help to get our trails ready. These trail builders are a lot of fun. Meet at the VFW at 8 AM for breakfast with the trails leaving at 9 AM. Check the web site for last minute changes, based on the weather. If you are not online, call one of your friends who is online to see if there are any updates or call the TRJC trail boss, Doug Maxheimer.



- **CPR and First Aid Training** – As part of our ongoing effort to promote safety within the club, Lee Ator has agreed to provide 2 sessions of a certified CPR and First Aid Training Course to be held during the next two work weekends. These are open to all members and we **strongly** encourage members to attend. If you are a Trail Guide or helper and do not have a current First Aid certificate, this course is required. **There are openings and you must pre-register.** Details are on Page 4.



- **Agriculture Field Day** – This is one of our club's commitments to the environment and to education. For three years now we have provided funding for the Agriculture Field day where hundreds 5th graders from a tri-county area learn about protecting our environment and agriculture. Our Jeep exhibits are one of the highlights. Please see the article on page 5 and help out if you can.



- **5th Annual 4x4 Safari** – May 18th will be here before you know it! There are still openings so if you or any of your friends want to attend one of the two best wheelin' events in the Midwest (the other one being the Blast, of course!) sign up now. Applications are online or you can get one by calling the club phone. The more attendees we have, the more fun we have! See you there!
- **Spectator Events** – Rockport Off-Road Park is one of TRJC's best supporters. This year they have a number of awesome events – and many of our members participate. Help cheer our members on and help support RORP by attending. See the related article on Page 5.

Getting Ready for the Safari

By Rick Culberson

I was going through the Club directory the other day, and was surprised how many new members we have. It just seems like yesterday I was sitting at Floyd and Bonnie Wombles farm (which is now the Hopewell View Hunting Lodge) asking Chief (one of the only guides I know of to get stuck going down hill) what lift is the best for a TJ. I cannot believe how time has gone by and still what little knowledge I have on what's the best lift for a TJ.

With all you newer members, come up and say hello to us older members. But remember one thing, the guy with the last Jeep tale, usually has the best. You older members, remember what it was like when you joined. Help the newer members out with some guidance on the trails and talk to them. We need the new members to feel at home with us and become involved with TRJC if we are to continue.

But anyway, during the few years I have been a member of TRJC, I have met a lot of fine people. Many I do not get to see as much as I would like and others I see way too much ☺. But all have felt the same way I do about Jeeps and we're here to have as much fun as we can have.



The other day I got to run with one of the people that it does not matter what's happening - he always has a smile - and you better plan on having a good time: Don (Pokey) Walston, one of our original Land Owners and a Trail Guide from the early days of Pokey's Run. With four Jeeps we left the Club House and headed to Pokey's Run. Of course we were without Pokey on the way out. He had forgotten to put a First Aid kit in his Jeep so off home to the garage to get the First-Aid kit before we hit the trail.



Pokey, feeling a little "anxious!"

Once we got there, we discussed what we wanted to do. Pokey wanted to run the morning part of the trail. We ran it backwards and cut in two new pieces of trail which will add some new and interesting loops. Only two out of four Jeeps made the new loop. Pokey got lost on the last 200 feet of trail. Oh, and did I add that this year Pokey is going to guide the trail? And by the way, he will get lost a little later in the story.

Anyway, somehow during his getting lost on the last 200 feet of trail, Pokey somehow got turned around. Now he has to try to push me backwards, with a tree right behind me, or against my back bumper anyway. The next thing you hear is air, hoping it is Pokey's air locker. Oh yeah, Pokey does not have an air locker. It must be a tire. So on down the trail we go, not very far before we have to stop and change a tire. I did not ask, but why would someone carry a spare tire if it only has a pound or two of air in it?

So off to Muri and Joan Walston's we go to find air. After airing up the spare, we find a hole in the tire we had removed but decide to go back to the trail. We start off by walking the waterfall area. Now I know I have my hands full. Pokey's has become a Buck Deer in rut. After getting the others and "the deer" back to the Jeeps, it's off to Rooster Hill.

Now you would think a man who grew up on this farm would remember how the trail goes. He even cut this part in. But we had to stop and regroup when our guide started off through the trees with no trail under his Jeep. Over the CB I call, "Pokey, the trail's back here!" The answer, I think anyway was "just checking for mushrooms." So we get back on the trail and off we go.

One of the new members, Bill, got stuck at this time. Since I had strapped him one other time, by the time I got around to where he was, he had his winch out and was winching himself up the hill. I guess the pictures on the wall of me pulling him up the hill had something to do with it. The caption on the picture is "Here I come to save the day. "



Most of the rest of the day we had a good time. We did not get the trail all cleaned, as we have to have time to have fun! We did move Articulation Alley about 10 to 20 feet up the creek. For you older members that remember Articulation Alley, I think it may be as good as before. So all you new members that have not made a trail clean up day, stop by and have fun with us. We will be going back out to Pokey's trail with a crew to clean and make more trails.

I ask one more thing of all members of Two Rivers Jeep Club: sign up for the Safari. We want you all to see the joy on the faces as new folks make their first hill climb. If you can not come, then send a friend, and listen to the fun they had, then wish it was you and not them. With your help this could be one of the best years TRJC has. Hope to see you all on the trails - and don't ask what the best lift is for a TJ.

The "Grady Bunch" Trail Building - March 26

By Tom Grady



Dad and I thought we would escape the usual carnage by going on the Atlas trail "Fire, Electric shock, and rolled over Cherokees" by going to build trail at Susie's Knob. Well, the first breakage happens on the way to the trail. Mark Tweedell's drive shaft broke after clearing a rock ledge that hasn't been used in years and then test driving it. John Tombs blew a freeze plug. We cut some new trail and tried some other new obstacles (one of which Dad had to test 4 times before making it!) Mark Kinne had a somewhat frustrating final farewell trail ride to his soon to be fuel injected V-8 powered CJ. His carburetor must have known it was the last trip because it fought him all day long. The last rock ledge clawed one of his rear tires and his back driveshaft and at that point we all decided to go and get pizza. In attendance were

Brad Behymer, Mark Kinne, Alan and Thomas Grady, John Tombs, and Mark Tweedell.

At least we didn't have a rolled Cherokee. We thought we would save that for Sunday at Rockport but after 3 inches of rain Saturday, Josh Allen was the only trail guide that went wheeling Sunday -- good thing because he was a lot of help getting the Cherokee back on 4 wheels. And just to add more excitement to the weekend, we left Rockport just 20 minutes ahead of the Sunday storms that rolled through the Midwest, thanks to a look at the weather via Tom and Debbie's computer at the park .

Certified CPR and First Aid Courses

As part of TRJC's ongoing safety program, this year we're offering the Red Cross Certified CPR and First Aid Courses. Both courses will be held in a one day 8 hour long session. The first session will be held Saturday, April 8. Another session will be held April 22. You may attend either one. These sessions will be held at the VFW in Pittsfield starting at 8 AM.

At least one helper or leader from each trail must take this course. There will be no charge for any trail official.

This course is also being opened up to all members of Two Rivers. The cost, per attendee, will be \$35 to cover the materials. Members are encouraged to attend.

Sufficient instructors will be available to keep the size of the hands-on portion of the courses limited to 6-8 people. In order to ensure instructor availability, it's essential that we have an accurate count of attendees.

Please let us know, by April 1, if you will be attending and also which session you wish to attend. No money is required ahead of time, you may pay at the day of the class.

Please send your responses to franjan@verizon.net or call the club phone, toll free, 866-483-3982 and let us know what date and how many will be attending.

This will not be offered for a few more years so this is your opportunity to take these courses now. You never know when this type of training may be needed, either on or off the trail.

Any questions, contact Fran or call the club phone.

Ag Day

By Walt Gibert

Two Rivers Jeep Club members can come be a kid again when they sign up to help our club sponsor the Agriculture/Conservation Field Day at the Perry Ag Lab. The event takes place on April 28 and club members are needed to give Two Rivers some more positive public relations. The club is now the primary sponsor for this event which allows hundreds of kids from several school districts to get a first-hand look at various aspects of agriculture and conservation.



The club sets up a canopy early in the day prior to the kids arriving at 9 a.m. It's a good time for club members to tell tall Jeep stories, but it's also good for the club to be "out in force" to show the students and their teachers and supervisors that we do care about the environment.

Of all the displays at the event, the kids always want their class photos taken by (on) the club Jeeps. Those who attend will receive a nice meal during the day. The event wraps up by about mid-afternoon. About five or six Jeeps have been at this event in the last couple of years. A showing of a dozen or more Jeeps would be quite impressive. Respond to the club secretary if you can attend. Rain date is May 4.

Upcoming Spectator Events

By: Frannie Suhre

Come out and watch your fellow Club members as they participate in the following events for the 2006 season at Rockport Off-Road Park:

- RRock Rock Crawl Challenge: April 1-2, June 24-25, Aug. 19-20, Oct. 21-22
- Top Shop Challenge :May 6-7 and Sept. 30-Oct.1
- SheRock Women's Rock Crawl Competition: May 27

Several Club members have participated in the past and have done very well. Members that are definitely competing are Tim Miller and Alan Grady in RRock, Debbie Wombles and Lisa Catt are competing in the SheRock and a rumor has it that someone will be driving Tim Miller's Jeep in SheRock as well. Toumbs Repair has participated in the Top Shop Comp the past couple of years and we hope to see them back!

COME CHEER THEM ON, They would love the support!!!

TRJC Board Member Spotlight

By: Frannie Suhre

I am the current secretary for TRJC and still learning the ropes since I am fairly new to this job (I had some pretty big shoes to fill!), but I think things have gotten off to a good start for 2006.

I live in Winchester, IL with my husband, Chad and our two children, Cory (13) and Danielle (8). Chad is a mechanic by trade, so it was only a matter of time before we got into Jeeping! I am a special education teacher in Winchester.

We started our off-roading experience with trucks, but soon came to realize that a Jeep was a necessity (at least we could all fit into one vehicle and be together all day)! We became familiar with TRJC when we attended the very first 4X4 Blast in 1999. The following week, we purchased our very first Jeep and joined the Club in 2000. The involvement only grew from there. Chad and I are also in charge of promotional items and are trail guides on Mossy Mountain. I even have my own Jeep now, so we are no longer in the same vehicle. Apparently Chad wanted his driver's seat back, but we still enjoy off-roading as a family. We just have more seats now to take friends along to get them hooked as well!

The things I have always liked best about TRJC are the friendships that we have developed (and the many more we hope to develop) and being together as a family enjoying the time spent together. My goal is for everyone in TRJC to feel as if they belong and can get together with friends and have a good time while enjoying the same hobby. What worked for us was to step up and help out, whether it be attending trail buildings or helping on a larger scale. If you have any suggestions on how we can make our Club even better, let myself or one of the other Board Members know.

I hope to see all of you out on the trails soon!

Please remember to have your Jeep inspected at the next trail building or Club run you are able to attend. The inspections are one of the ways that we can try to keep our members safe throughout their trail adventures. It will also benefit you at the Safari and Blast to help speed up the inspections process. You can find the list of required and recommended equipment in your Club directory as well as online (go to Club Info and then Guidelines). Please review this information so that you can be prepared for your inspection.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to Two Rivers. Please make a point of introducing yourself to them at our gatherings. This year we'll start to include their email addresses. Please drop them a line, welcome them to the club and help them become acquainted with items that we take for granted – like what to bring to the trail builders, where we meet, when, etc. A little encouragement will help new members feel a part of the club.

Heather & Dave Price	Alton IL	Rubicon & Wagoneer	hezprice1@charter.net
Daniel Bell	Middletown IL	74 CJ5	cowboydannyb2002@yahoo.com
Mark Hovasse	Jacksonville IL	94 XJ	mnljc@mchsi.com
Alan & Carolyn Troungo	Joliet IL	02 TJ	gojeepin2@yahoo.com
Harold Dafoe	Bloomington IL	05 LJ	h.dafoe@insightbb.com
Lana Bilderback	Quincy IL	78 CJ5	heep78@netzero.com
Trent & Amber Hunziker	Kahoka IL	99 TJ, 99 XJ	tlhunziker@yahoo.com
Carl Hornstein	Melvin IL	75 CJ5	

Trail of Life

By Chief

As I sit down to write this column on the first day of spring, 2006, those of us here in the central portion of Illinois are facing a Blizzard Warning. You know, 8-10 inches of snow with 30 to 40 mile an hour winds. What can you say, nothing like Illinois weather! The closest thing I have ever experienced to this area's topsy-turvy weather was when I was in the Army at Fort Sill Oklahoma. In a three week period at Fort Sill, we experienced an ice storm, a tornado and then a snow storm. It was just a little over a week ago that Springfield was hit by twin twisters carving paths on the western and eastern parts of the Capitol City, and now we are facing a blizzard.

I know I tend to write often about nature stories, mainly raccoon stories. Well, as I thought back about the weather and Fort Sill, I happened to remember another raccoon encounter years before the "Raccoon Wars" previously mentioned. I was in the Army Reserve for a number of years and we spent most of our "summer camps" at beautiful mosquito infested Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. There was a large contingent of rabid resident raccoons who constantly harassed the visiting military forces. They would prowl the streets in formation at night dumping over garbage cans and relieving themselves on the front steps of our barracks. Every morning we would wake up to garbage in the streets and raccoon deposits all over the place. The problem was, as anyone one who ever spent any time in the military knows, they want every thing neat and in its place. There is no place for un-canned garbage and certainly no place for steaming piles of raccoon poop in the military scheme of things. So every morning we had to go out and clean up the mess from the night before. It is totally amazing how much can come out of one of those furry little bundles of cuteness and fun. Anyway I think you get the picture. Platoons of uniformed raccoon pooper-scoopers cleaning up the debris left over from the rampaging hoards of masked marauders.

Something had to be done, so we devised a plan to take care of them once and for all. We gathered all the pick handles and clubs we could muster. Our plan, meet them on the street and give them a thumping they would never forget, this for sure would discourage them from further intrusion into our area. We waited just inside the doors of our barracks for the furry formation to come down out of the timber. Then, yes.... it's them. Wait for the right moment. Let them get in close and make a commitment, then pounce on them with all the intensity the US Army could bring on an opponent. (A kind of a shock and awe before it was a buzz word.) We burst out of the doors of the barracks with the blood curdling yells we were taught in hand to hand combat training, knowing it would terrify even Attila the Hun. Then the furry formation of raccoons rose up in a posture like nothing I have ever seen before, or since. Multitudes moving as one, they bared their teeth, let out their own blood curdling scream and put the pride of the US Army in full retreat. Somehow we all managed to get back to our barracks without anyone getting mauled or bitten. It certainly gave us a new respect for the flora and fauna of the area. I think some of the guys even began to put out food as a peace offering. I guess that was the beginning of the love hate relationship I have with the four-legged little darlings. I never thought it would develop into a decades long test of determination. I do know at night when I am in the woods alone, I can feel those beady little eyes watching every move. You know, they are everywhere.

- Our condolences to Steve Johnson (Rat Patrol) who lost his mother, Burletta Johnson recently.

If you have any items you would like to have included in the Trail of Life, email: chief351hfpd@msn.com or Phone: 217-423-2917

Words of Wisdom: One problem with being retired is that the moment you wake up each day, your on the job.

See Ya on the Trail.....Chief

ARB Locker Installation and March 11th Trailbuilding

By Paul Robke

Half the club is talking about it so I figured I'd share some details on what we did.....

My trail building experience started on Wednesday the 8th rather than Saturday the 11th. I have been wanting to get ARB lockers installed in my 05 LJ for some time. I'm not much of a gear head but I do want to learn as much as I can by trying to do things myself on my Jeep or at least learning from someone doing the job for me. I was talking to a member of TRJC about this and he graciously agreed to take on the job and let me help him do the installation so that I can learn as much as I can about what's going on in the process. This turned out to be really one of the best experiences for me.

I got down to Jacksonville on Wednesday and we started tearing things down and washing parts. It took us about half a day to get enough mud out from under my Jeep to see what we were doing. I believe Chad is filling in holes in his yard with the mud as we speak. I should have taken it back to Rockport and given it back to Tom, though. I can't tell you how glad I am that Chad took on this little project. He really knows his stuff, doesn't miss a trick and double checks every little adjustment. He even checked all of the factory specs before taking things apart in case there was already a problem. I'm glad he did, because indeed there was a problem with the factory gear setup. He explained to me how axles are built from scratch and what he believed the cause was. Anyway, I needed a new pinion bearing and that is not covered in the ARB install instructions.

As he started to shim the Dana 44 locker into place, he noticed that the shims used in the late model 44's are not consistent with the shims for the older 44's and tracking down shims for this application turned out to be a nightmare. Chad ran an idea by ARB and they agreed that it was acceptable and we proceeded with the installation.

The front installation went smooth as silk compared to the rear. There was no need to pull the pinion, so the ARB instructions were right on. Chad had all of the tools needed to do this job. Most of them, I have no idea how they are setup or what exactly they measure, but he did his best to explain them to me.

I wired the switches, the air lines were run and the ARBs and new rear pinion bearings are in. They worked flawlessly on Saturday as we went through Mossy Mountain trail and built a new obstacle. I really like this new hill. The trail guides did a good job of fitting it into the flow the trail and it matches well with the difficulty of the trail. I look forward to running it at the Safari.

Thanks again to Chad and Frannie for their help last week. TRJC is full of great people and those 2 are among the cream of the crop for sure.

2006 Board Members and Responsibilities

Board Members

President	Lee Ator		217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750
Secretary	Fran Suhre	franjan@verizon.net	217-742-9818
Treasurer	Hamer Tate		217-833-2861
Board Member	Charlie Ater	c8r3@irtc.net	217-742-3275
	Jim Catt	riddle01@comcast.net	815-469-1484
	Walt Gilbert	waltpj@big-river.net	573-324-6464
	Alan Grady	cgrady5600@sbcglobal.net	815-838-8611
	Tim Miller	jeepnwidow@insightbb.com	217-875-2680
	Tom Wombles	twombles@adams.net	217-437-4361

Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & Blast	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
Promotional Items	Chad & Fran Suhre	franjan@verizon.net	217-742-9818
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Maxheimer	drmaxheimer@netzero.net	217-287-7470
Public Relations, Newsletter, Web	Dave Christensen	davec@millenicom.com	630-393-3314

TRJC Web Page: <http://www.trjc.com/>
Club e-mail: trjc1@trjc.com
Club phone: 630-717-5337 (JEEP) or 866-483-3982 (toll free)

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. 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 column correspondent or the newsletter coordinator. The preferred method to send articles and photos is email but hard copies of photos and typed or handwritten articles will also be accepted. If you need assistance in writing an article, we can help proof it and correct spelling errors. Photos can be black and white or color with a description of what, where and when. Scanned photos may be in any reasonable graphics format (medium to high-resolution.) Low resolution photos do not print well. Hard copy photos will be returned to the owner.

Next Newsletter Deadline: May 24

Two Rivers Jeep Club
C/O Frannie Suhre
870 State Route 106
Winchester, IL 62694

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