



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 10 Issue 6

December 2007

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Lee and the Board



As our 2007 wheeling season closes, we're all ready for 2008. The New Year's wheeling calendar is enclosed and we're ready to go! A few changes have been made in some of the dates to make it more convenient for our members. As always, if there is interest, additional events (such as trail builders) can always be added. We're going to have a great wheeling year ahead of us with some new trails and some interesting changes to a few of the old ones. And remember, the Trail Builders are always more play than work!

As mentioned in the renewal letter, members now get a better discount for the Safari and Blast. Club members will now pay \$70 per driver and \$40 per passenger over 10. This covers the 4 meals per person and other fixed costs for the event. Non-member prices will remain at \$115 and \$60 and that's still not a bad deal for two days of wheeling and four meals! We can always use help for the events. Rick Culberson will be coordinating the Safari and Blast this year and he always needs folks to help out. Give Rick a call and volunteer to help – that will make his day!

I'd like to ask that members help promote both the Safari and Blast. Talk it up with your wheelin' buddies and invite a friend down. If you are member of another club, let them know and invite them also. Promote the events! Invite your friends! That's what each and every member of Two Rivers can do to help the club and the community that welcomes us and allows us to wheel on their land.



From Tammy and myself and the rest of the Board, we wish you all the very best this Holiday Season and a great New Year!

Lee

Trail Run, Kickoff Dinner & Board Meeting

Saturday, February 16

Our first event of the season (weather permitting – and that's another reason why we need RSVPs) will be the annual Kickoff Dinner and Trail Run, this year sponsored by Lee and Tammy Ator. The trails we run will be weather dependent, but we're hoping there will be snow and this year we can have **a real snow run**. As usual, we'll post any late information on the website. Those without internet can call the club phone for updates or if there are questions.

Here's the plan:

8 AM – Breakfast at the VFW.

9 AM – Leave for trails.

3:30 PM - Board meeting at the VFW.

5 PM – Congregate at the VFW with supper starting around 6.

Jeep Club nostalgia door prizes will be given to those who attend the evening meal – as long as the supplies last. We also hope to give out the directories by then and will mail directories to those who cannot attend. No formal program is planned this year. We figured it would just be nice to sit around and visit, laugh and have a good time. If you have a video tape of any of your wheeling adventures, bring it along and we can play it that night. And maybe we can even get a speech from Lee. BYOB is OK – perhaps necessary if Lee speaks.

Here's the kicker.....you must RSVP so the VFW can prepare the right amount of food.

Please RSVP to Jeff Sorensen, jeffsorensen@mchsi.com, 815-943-3163 by Feb. 12th. We really need you to RSVP so we can order the right amount of food or contact you if the weather causes a cancellation. Even if you think it's iffy that you might make it, please RSVP anyway. If you can't make it at the last minute, that's OK. We can deal with a few extras rather than not enough but at least this way we'll have a rough idea.

Membership Renewals

Some of you may have a sticker attached to your newsletter indicating that we have not yet received your 2008 renewal. If you have forgotten to renew, please do so before the end of the year. For insurance purposes, we **MUST** have signed renewal forms from everyone, even if you are one of those who give significant time to the club and have a complimentary membership or serve on the Board.

If you have already sent your renewal in, but still have a renewal reminder sticker, we apologize. Please contact our Secretary, Jeff Sorensen, jeffsorensen@mchsi.com, 815-943-3163 and we'll correct the error.

The club directory will be started right after the first of the year so it's essential we get your renewal before January. Thanks!

When or Where Did You Learn To Wheel?

I was taught by my Dad. I was about 10 years old. At the time, Dad was stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Co. He was a member of Pikes Peak 4WD Club and the club would go out around the Springs area once a month. Dad had a 1960 CJ5 that he had put in a small block Chevy in. Back in the late 60's not too many people were doing engine swaps in Jeeps around the club. He was very proud of that Jeep. On one winter trip with the club, trails were a little slick. This is where I got my first experience with a Warn 8274 winch. I was volunteered to pull the winch cable up the hill to next waiting Jeep so we could winch up. After seeing what a Jeep could do and how much a winch could help you get to where you needed to go, I was hooked.

Dad retired from the Army and moved here to Illinois, where he was originally from. He always kept Jeeping on my mind. Dad had a couple of old Jeeps from time to time but there weren't any clubs we knew of around. It was tough going from public access land in Colorado to private owned land here in Illinois. A Jeep dealer, Little Jess Jeep in Camp Point, had Jeep races from time to time. I bought a '47 Willys to race in stock 4 cylinder class. It was fun but I still missed the trails. Then Two Rivers Jeep Club came into the picture. I became a member in 1992 - love the people and the trails.

I got my Dad and Mom hooked again. Some of you remember Dad on the trails, a big smile and willing to help anyone with his chainsaw or even a sandwich if you forgot your lunch. Dad and Mom started in a CJ5 then moved up to a 1992 Wrangler. They needed fuel injection for those steep Two Rivers trails. Dad was happy to be on the trails again. He helped me clear trees and build trails on Mongo, Pokey's, Hopewell, Black Oak. We made a number of Father's Day rides on Black Oak. It got a little tough for Mom to get in and out of the Wrangler, so Dad bought a built Cherokee from Randy Bullard. It had more comfort, auto, and air. He stuck with Jeeping as long as he could. He didn't want to give it up because he knew how much TRJC helped people with their donations and how much he enjoyed the people he would meet on the trails. It took a little longer to get up and around after a day of wheeling. Dad and Mom came down to Rockport a couple of times to cheer me on in the Top Shop challenges. When Toumbs Repair won the Top Shop event in 2006, I think he told everyone in town.

Dad, aka Roadrunner, Donald C. Toumbs Sr., passed away November 16th, 2007, after a valiant struggle with cancer. One of his wishes in passing was that memorials be made to TRJC because of how the club helped so many people and organizations.

Sadly missed, never forgotten.

John Toumbs

2008 Two Rivers Jeep Club Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time	
Feb 2008	1	Registration opens for the Illini Safari		
	16	Trail Building (Snow run if there is snow)	8:00 AM	
		Board Meeting	3:30 PM	
		Kickoff Dinner	5:00 PM	
Mar 2008	1	Trail Building	8:00 AM	
	15	Trail Building	8:00 AM	
	29	Member Appreciation Day:	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
		1. Free Breakfast (8 AM)		
		2. Trail Ride (9 AM)		
	3. Free Catered Member Appreciation Dinner (5 PM)			
30	TRJC Sponsors Top Shop Challenge at Hannibal Rocks	Hannibal Rocks		
Apr 2008	5	Trail Building	8:00 AM	
	19	Trail Building	8:00 AM	
		Board Meeting	6:00 PM	
May 2008	3	Trail Building	8:00 AM	
	14	Registration opens for the 4x4 <i>BLAST</i>		
	15-17	7th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari (open to public)	American Legion 4 PM Thu	
Jun 2008	21	Miller's TNT Farm Father's Day Run	VFW, Pittsfield 8:00 AM	
Jul 2008	12	1. Ladies Day on the Trail and	VFW, Pittsfield 8:00 AM	
		2. An Evening at the Movies		
	26	Trail Building	8:00 AM	
		Board meeting	6:00 PM	
Aug 2008	7-9	10th Annual 4x4 Blast (open to public)	American Legion 4 PM Thu	
Sep 2008	20	Better Late Than Never July 4th Run	8:00 AM	
		Board Meeting	6:00 PM	
Oct 2008	11	Annual General Meeting and Board Elections	8:00 AM	
		Board Meeting	9:00 AM	
		Ma Earth Run	10:00 AM	
	12	TRJC Sponsors Top Shop Challenge at Hannibal Rocks	Hannibal Rocks	
Nov 2008	1	Board Meeting (2009 Event Planning)	VFW, Pittsfield 1:00 PM	
Dec 2008	6	Christmas Party	VFW, Pittsfield 5:00 PM	
May 2009	14-16	2009 - 8th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari		
Aug 2009	6-8	2009 - 11th Annual 4x4 Blast		

Events and dates are subject to change. Please check the web site and newsletter for updates.

The Trail of Life

by Chief



In case you haven't noticed, Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas is just around the corner. I don't believe there is a season which comes and goes any faster. With all the seasonal activities and family gatherings, time flies by. As the deadline for this issue approached, I was once again blank on what to write about. I really like to provide you with some light and humorous life event, but lately it has been rather "eventless" around here. We have been busy, but just nothing to write about.

I did have a first time experience however I might relate to you. (At my age, any first time experience is exciting.)

Every year at our annual family Thanksgiving Day gathering, my sister and my nieces gather around the "sale ads" from the newspaper, and plan their strategy to grab up all the bargain buys on "Black Friday". I sit in fascination as they plan their moves like an army plans an invasion. They even go as far as planning the routes to take inside the stores to get to the selected items with the least amount of resistance. Then comes the kicker, they get up at 04:00 in the morning to go and due battle with the thousands of others trying to get the best bargain. At least they don't bivouac outside the stores as some do, but still, that's pretty early. Well as I sit and watch their planning, I begin to look at the ads myself. Oh man, there it is, the Garmin GPS we have been considering to put in the AMA engine and the rescue rig. Holy Cow, look at the price!! Oh, what's this? **Price good 05:00 to 11:00, LIMITED QUANTITIES.** Let me premise this with the fact that HFPD will be responding into Decatur on Condition Two situations. We thought it would be a good idea to have a mapping device in the vehicle and this would be a cheap solution.

Anyway back to my story. How could I pass up this deal? No wait!! How could I get up that early to face the pulsing throng of crazed holiday shoppers? It's too good of a deal. I must take one for the team. Up at 04:00, on the road by 04:30 and as I passed by Starbucks there were cars parked around the building's drive-up window and my inner voice cried out, "You are nuts!! You are an amateur; you can't compete with these veterans of Christmas Past." Undaunted I ventured on. As I passed Circuit City, there are tents on the sidewalk and a line completely around the building. Finally I reach my store. Acres of parking lot are completely filled.

I squeeze my jeep into a possible parking space and begin the trek to the front doors. People are literally running the full length of the lot at a sprint to get in line. As I made my way into the store I will have to say it was a bit scary. I did not sense the Christmas cheer I had grown accustomed to during sensible hours of shopping. I happened upon Matt, a former firefighter of mine standing in the line for the same item I was there to buy. We both looked at each other with the same look of disbelief, and at the same time said, "What are you doing here?" We both answered the same thing, "I am not sure." We got together and worked out a plan that whoever managed to get close enough to the boxes to grab the needed quantity for both would do so, then signal the other and head to the front of the store.

At the designated moment when the boxes were opened, Matt made an awesome move toward the box completely faking out a bewildered woman and grabbed the needed quantity. He pitched

me my two Navigators and I made a beeline to the checkout lanes. As I approached the lanes I saw something I had never seen at this store, there was no one in line. Everyone was still fighting for bargains. I checked out and was out of the store and headed home by 05:11. I had done it. I faced the challenge of Black Friday and returned home unscathed.....all except for the comment of my loving wife. "I am sure you would do that for the fire house, what if it had been something I wanted?"

I received this communication which I thought I would pass along:

Hi Chief,

I'm the guy with the military jeep called the "MUTT" - Military Utility Tactical Truck with the CB handle "Rat Patrol". I want to explain why I have not attended any TRJC activities this year. I have been in ill health for quite sometime and did not know why, so about a month ago I travelled to the Mayo Clinic and was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Now I'm trying to get the proper medication dialed in to improve symptoms. I've been a member since 1999 and am grateful for all the fun times at TRJC

Steve Johnson

sjohnson@mtco.com

(I'm sure Steve would appreciate a call or a note from TRJC members.)

- Two Rivers Jeep Club extends its sincere condolences to John and Sandy Toumbs. John's father, Donald, recently passed away. John's eulogy in this newsletter is a tribute to his Dad and his admiration for TRJC.
- Our sincere condolences are extended to Virginia and Gary Williams and their family. Virginia's brother, John recently passed away.
- Our sincere condolences are also extended to Warren Anderson, whose father passed away Nov. 29.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year,
See Ya on the Trail

Chief

We also received this from Lisa Catt after Chief wrote his article. Jim had a hip replaced recently and will have the other hip done once he is recovered from this one.

Jim's first surgery to replace his right hip was done on November 15, 2007. To date he has had the staples removed and is currently having physical therapy at home along with a nurse coming to the house twice a week to check his vitals and keep a check on his blood. He is on Coumadin which is a blood thinner. He will be on that for another two weeks and hopefully by Christmas he will no longer be using his walker to get around.



Jim, enjoying his "down time" on the "hillbilly" lifted chair, artistically designed and built by Alan Grady. Orders accepted.

And here's Lisa this summer practicing the graceful art of three wheeling. Now from the photos, who do you think is having much more fun.....Jim or Lisa?



Right now, he is walking with the use of the walker and only putting toe pressure on the right side until he sees the doctor on 12/14. By then he should give him the okay to put more weight on it. He is really doing very well at getting up and down the stairs with the help of crutches. In fact, last Sunday was the first time (17 days after the surgery) that he was able to leave the house. It is a little more difficult getting him in and out of the vehicle, but he really needed to get out of the house.

Progress is doing very well, except he is terribly BORED to death. He has been trying to make contact calls for additional sponsorship for my next year's R-rock competitions. Otherwise, staying in the house is wearing on him. His next scheduled surgery is January 22, 2008. By May of next year, the "Bionic Man" will be up and running great.

Trail Builder

Our first Trail Builder will be held March 1. Meet at the VFW at 8 AM for breakfast and the work crews will leave at 9 AM. We don't know the trails for now but be ready to come here and help start the trail building season with a large crew. Watch the web page for announcements from Doug. If you have any questions about the trail builders, check the web page or call our Trail Chairman, Doug Watret. See you then!



Mark Schumacher suggested we participate in 4WD's club incentive program. A few years ago we turned this down as we were under the impression we needed to provide a list of all our club members to 4WD and we did not want to do that. Mark did more investigation and that apparently is not the case.

Participation in this program is purely voluntary. If we get a minimum of 10 members to participate, those people who have registered will get the 10% discount and TRJC will also get 3% back at the end of the year.

If you want to participate, all you need do is provide Mark with your name, address, phone and email. 4WD will not use this data for other marketing purposes than their own. In return, those who have submitted their names will be entitled to the 10% club discount.

Please contact Mark at m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net or (309) 523-3918 if you want to participate. We'll let you know once 10 people have signed up and the discount is in place.

To reiterate....we will NOT give 4WD our membership roster. Only the names of those people who contact Mark will be have their names sent to 4WD and be eligible for the discount.

Questions? Call or email Mark. This is a good dealit will save you money also help TRJC!

Christmas Party, Events, and RSVPs

The Christmas Party for Saturday, Dec. 8 was cancelled due to low RSVPs. **However, that was indeed a blessing considering the nasty ice storm that weekend!**

We had asked for RSVPs by Dec. 3 and by that date only 6 adults and 4 kids RSVP'd to Pokey. This was not enough to make it worthwhile for the VFW to plan, order food, and make the supper - especially when those in the VFW preparing the food had plans of their own this time of year.

After the deadline, a number of people RSVP'd wanting the party. We apologize, but Pokey and Becky made the decision to cancel based on the number of people RSVPing by December 3, as advertised, and also after talking to me. Some of the people were surprised it was cancelled as they were planning on attending but had not RSVP'd. We were unable to notify them – although they did find out.

We ask members to RSVP to only a few of our functions where there are major amounts of food preparation involved, like the Christmas Party, the Kickoff Dinner, Appreciation Dinner and a few others. There are a couple of reasons:

1. Planning meals and activities takes a lot of work and some lead time. In the past we have sometimes doubled the amount of food to take into account those who do not RSVP but show up anyway. In some cases, we had over 50% waste and one time it cost our club over \$500 in wasted food. We can't do that anymore. That's why we need the RSVPs.
2. If the event is cancelled, we need to let people know. Not every member has internet service nor checks the web. If members RSVP, we'll have a list and if there are any changes, we can contact them ahead of time.

We're sorry for the disappointment. In the long run, this worked out well due to the weather. But when we ask for RSVPs, we have to make decisions based on the numbers that we get. We can discuss this at the Kickoff Dinner if there are other suggestions people may have to avoid this in the future.

Lee Ator, President.



Two Rivers Jeep Club PO Box 47 Pittsfield IL 62363-0047

(630) 717-5337 or (866) 483-3982 email: trjc1@trjc.com web: www.trjc.com

2008 Membership Enrollment Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Home _____

Phone Work _____

Phone Cell _____

e-mail(s) _____

Nickname(s) _____

Jeep(s) _____

Membership Type

PAID MEMBER
(Choose one only)

Renewal (\$60.00)

New (\$60.00)

OR

COMPLIMENTARY
(Choose all that apply)

Land Owner

Board Member

Trail Guide

Special Volunteer

Newsletter Only

Do not publish my address in the club directory

I hereby release Two Rivers Jeep Club, landowners, and any other party or parties involved in any Two Rivers Jeep Club activity of any liability whatsoever for any loss or damage to property or personal injuries sustained or occurring on any Two River Jeep Club Event. I certify that I am at least 18 years of age and have liability insurance for vehicles I will use on the trails. Make checks out to "Two Rivers Jeep Club" or "TRJC"

Applicant's Signature _____

Date Signed _____

Office Use Only

Amount Received _____ Cash or Check # _____ Date Received: ____/____/____

Two Rivers Jeep Club
PO Box 47
Pittsfield, Illinois, 62363-0047

Place
Stamp
Here



FIRST CLASS MAIL