



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 10 Issue 1

February 2007

10 Years of the Tracker

Wow! It doesn't seem like 10 years ago that a few of us got together and started the Tracker. And in 2000, only 2 years later, the Tracker was named as the best 4WD newsletter reporting in the nation! A lot has sure changed. We've gone from 33" tires as being the "biggest and baddest" to 35s, 37s and 44s. Buggies, unheard of then, are common now. TRJC has gone from the only place to wheel in the Midwest to one of many. Our club has survived upturns and downturns. We've made it through good times and bad. We've donated over \$75,000 to various organizations within the Pike County area. Many changes have taken place in membership. We've lost some old friends and gained many new ones. Of those who started the newsletter 10 years ago, only one has stayed with it the entire time.

While there have been many changes over the last 10 years, we're as strong as ever and having just as much fun. Please join us for our events this year. If you're a new member, we welcome you. If you've been around a few years, please welcome some of the new members as they join the best damn 4WD club in the Midwest!

If you want to take a walk down memory lane, go to our newsletter archive at <http://www.trjc.com/Newsletter/index.htm> to see each and everyone of the 60 newsletters that have been published over the last 10 years – with not one issue missed! (For you computer geeks, that's almost 500 million computer bits of data!)

Here's a blast out of the past – how many of these folks can you name from this photo that was the first published in our newsletter 10 years ago?



Newsletter Articles

We need your help for the newsletter. If you don't submit articles, other people won't get a chance to see some of the fun things we do. Please take the time to send your articles and photos to davec@millenicom.com or call on the club phone and I'll write down your story.

A Letter from Harry

Gosh, it doesn't seem like over 17 years of Jeepingbut, it was mid-December that long ago that I got a call from Tommy... He said, "I went to a Jeep Jamboree and we need one here in Pike County".... That spring, Noel Reuther, (since deceased), came up from St. Louis in a new Jeep, to show us how much fun Jeeping was, or could be. We didn't have much time, due to jobs, but Noel took me over to old East School, pulled up to the steps, said that properly tuned up, her could place the wheels against the steps, turn off the Jeep, put his feet flat on the floor and then start the Jeep and climb the steps without touching the accelerator.....and danged if he didn't do it!!

Well...we were sold on what the animal could do...and in the next few months we contacted a lot of people...potential participants and landowners as wel I'm very grateful that many of the original landowners I contacted about participating with us are still doing so. It's been a truly wonderful experience to have so many people come to our area, participate in the club's activities and come back just to visit....and have a great time.

Three things have really impressed me over the years...

- The emphasis on SAFETY!!! - The training, pre-event inspection and the care provided by our participants, trail guides...and trail builders... has made the club activities probably the safest in the United States.
- The "Tread Lightly" program, whereby participants have done a tremendous job of keeping our trails, and the roads to them, clean and properly repaired.
- The friendliness of all the participants and their willingness to help one another...and their reaction to our landowners and the entire Pike County community.

The development of the Jeep club and 4-wheeling over the years has really been a great event to watch. I hope it will continue to be a really effective, educational, conservation conscious and civic minded organization.

Sincerely,
Harry Wright

2007 Trail and Guide Information

(Trails are subject to change based on landowner agreements)

Trail Number	Trail Rating	CB Channel	Trail	Trail Guide	Cell Phone Number	Duties	Max. tire size
1	1	2	Ridge Rambler	Hamer Tate	(217) 248-2951	Guide\Board	33"
1	1	2	Ridge Rambler	Jenny Tate	(217) 248-1238	Guide	33"
1	1	2	Ridge Rambler	John Huebner	(618) 447-0562	Guide	33"
2	1	4	Exit Ramp	O.R. Freesen	(217) 473-6033	Guide	35"
2	1	4	Exit Ramp	Will Freesen	(217) 815-1818	Guide	35"
2	1	4	Exit Ramp	Boomer Freesen	(217) 473-3201	Guide	35"
3	1+	6	Hopewell	Charlie Ater	(217) 320-8877	Guide\Board	33"
3	1+	6	Hopewell	Doug Watret	(217) 652-9587	Guide	33"
4	2	8	New Salem	Doug Maxheimer	(217) 306-4421	Guide	33"
4	2	8	New Salem	Don Maxheimer	(217) 519-0174	Guide	33"
5	2	10	Mossy Mountain	Tom Miller	(217) 855-3199	Guide	33"
5	2	10	Mossy Mountain	Carey Levoy	(815) 258-2110	Guide	33"
5	2	10	Mossy Mountain	Chad&Frannie Suhre	(217) 371-9583	Guide\Inspections	33"
6	2+	12	Black Oak Run	Bob Mikrut	(708) 207-0773	Guide	38"
6	2+	12	Black Oak Run	Dave Cimino	(815) 600-0324	Guide	38"
6	2+	12	Black Oak Run	Anthony Prochaska	(708) 204-2584	Guide	38"
7	2+	14	Murphy's Law	Steve Gambrell	(217) 433-4144	Guide	36"
7	2+	14	Murphy's Law	Randy Newport	(573) 424-2319	Guide	36"
7	2+	14	Murphy's Law	Gary Williams	(217) 430-2314	Guide\Board	36"
8	2+	16	Dutch Creek	Lee & Tammy Ator	(217) 257-2815	Guide\President	35"
8	2+	16	Dutch Creek	Trent Knoles	(217) 899-7619	Guide	35"
8	2+	16	Dutch Creek	Chuck & Nick Rieker	(314) 799-0153	Guide	35"
9	3	18	Pokey's Run	Don & Billy Walston		Guide	35"
9	3	18	Pokey's Run	Rick Culberson	(217) 827-2899	Guide	35"
9	3	18	Pokey's Run	Jim Vandenberg	(573) 645-0606	Guide	35"
10	3	20	Smacker	Frank Smith	(217) 779-3124	Guide	35"
10	3	20	Smacker	Brian Baker	(217) 430-2459	Guide	35"
11	3	22	Lakeshore	Jim Catt	(815) 823-6663	Guide\Board	35"
11	3	22	Lakeshore	John Winkler	(630) 742-4369	Guide	35"
11	3	22	Lakeshore	Heyward Ball	(217) 652-0284	Guide	35"
12	3+	24	County Line	Pete Niles	(815) 378-8401	Guide	33"
12	3+	24	County Line	Kyle Thomas	(217) 971-2538	Guide	33"
12	3+	24	County Line	Jeremy Heggan	(630) 973-0279	Guide	33"
13	3+	26	Mongo	Elmo Johnson	(618) 210-7918	Guide	36"
13	3+	26	Mongo	Todd Whitaker	(217) 412-8089	Guide	36"
14	3+	28	Myer's Mayhem	Lou Goodman	(636) 443-9681	Guide	36"
14	3+	28	Myer's Mayhem	Rich Angarita	(314) 614-1335	Guide	36"
14	3+	28	Myer's Mayhem	Jeremy Perrone	(636) 328-2259	Guide	36"
15	4+	30	Susie's Knob 2	John Toumbs	(217) 257-5216	Guide	44"
15	4+	30	Susie's Knob 2	Mark Tweedell	(217) 242-3692	Guide	44"
15	4+	30	Susie's Knob 2	Mark Kinne	(217) 430-9931	Guide	44"
16	4+	32	Atlas	Alan Grady	(815) 693-1857	Guide\Board	44"
16	4+	32	Atlas	Walt Gilbert	(573) 754-0577	Guide\Board	44"
				Kelly Knoll		Event Coordinator	
				Craig Olson	(815) 218-6540	Video\Photo Driver	
NO MORE THAN 15 JEEPS ARE TO SIGN UP FOR EACH TRAIL.							
EMERGENCY (217) 285-4471 Pike Co. Sheriff							

Congratulations to Team Toumbs Repair

Team Toumbs Repair was recently featured on Spike TV on their Extreme 4x4 show. Team Toumbs won first place in the national competition for the Top Shop Nationals. John, and the rest of his crew, are members of TRJC and have made us all proud. Congratulations to John and his team for winning this event and for being on national TV! Way to go !!!

Safari and *BLAST* News

Planning for the events is coming along fine. The only snag is that we have not yet sent out the registration forms, as promised, since we are waiting to finalize our club insurance. Registration forms will likely be out within a couple weeks after you get this newsletter. If you have any questions about the events or wish to help, please contact our coordinator, Kelly Knoll.



Trail Builders



The next few work trail building weekends are Mar. 3, Mar. 17, Apr. 21, and May 5. We'll need your help to get our trails ready.

While not required, it's advisable for each attendee to have boots and heavy gloves. If you have a shovel and brush snips, you might want to bring them along also. Chain saws are usually supplied by the trail leaders. 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 may be online to see if there are any updates or call the TRJC trail boss, Doug Maxheimer.

Vehicle Recovery Seminar

The March 3 Recovery seminar has been postponed and will be held at a later date. A number of factors contributed to the postponement, including low interest. Sorry for the inconvenience but among other factors, the weather will also be better in a month or so. We'll post updates on the website and in the newsletter.

The Trail of Life

By Chief



From rescuers to rescued in one easy step. Yep, that was us. I don't know about your area, but the weather in this area of Illinois, this winter, for lack of a better word **SUCKS!** We had the devastating ice storm in December from which some are still recovering, a little warmer weather and then a series of snow events, the last one being major. 17 inches of major with 30 mph sustained winds to go along with it bringing wind chill temperatures to below zero. In the flat lands of Illinois where I reside, that is a formula for disaster. As is usual in this type of situation, people were filled with the thought that they were invincible and could still drive anywhere they wanted like it was 70 degrees and sunshine. Then when they find out they can't, and find themselves buried in a snow bank, they expect someone to come and get them safely to where they wanted to go. Such was the case recently.

We were initially dispatched to help a neighboring department who had received a call for a woman in a disabled vehicle stuck in the snow and going into labor. The main highway was blocked and we were called to see if we could reach her from the south as they tried from the north. To our relief, they were able to get to the lady and it was discovered she was having a panic attack, not labor. No further comment about that. We were called off the call and were returning when we noticed a pickup truck about 300 yards off the main road obviously stuck and in trouble. We had two vehicles which is procedure when operating in such conditions, me in my trusted "Chief's Buggy" and my son John, who some may remember as "Cowboy" in our department brush truck with a snow plow on the front of it.

I might add at this point we had other units operating at a multiple vehicle accident on I-72, with help from units from the City of Decatur, so we were about stretched to our limits. I advised I would drive to the truck and would call for help if I needed it. I got to the truck, a 2x4 Chevy pick-up buried in the ditch. I was able to pull him back up on the road with the Buggy, and called for the Brush Truck to clear a path. The driver needed to get about another mile to get home. I told him we would stay with him till he got there. Even with the plow ahead of us, the road was filling back up before we could get through. He became stuck again. With conditions getting worse every minute I advised him to leave his truck and get in with me, we would take him home.

With the plow busting drifts and the Buggy pulling it back for another run when it became stuck we were able to get him home. I noticed the only things he took out of his truck were two cases of a familiar brand of beer. He said we were welcome to have a couple before heading back. Thirst was not my concern but getting back to the main road was. As we fought through drifts we noticed we could not even see our tracks from the first trip, it became obvious we were in trouble. If we could get off the road and into the field we could make it, but there was a four foot deep ditch along the road and we could not tell where the field entrances were. When we got as far as where his abandoned truck was, we found we could not get around it. We were about a quarter of a mile from the main road and nothing but white ahead of us.

As we contemplated our situation, a friend of John's who has a monster 1-ton Ford 4x4 called, asking what we were doing. I believe this was an answer to a prayer I had just whispered to myself. John explained our situation. Mike said he would try to get to us through the field. As he approached, he could see the field entrance just a few feet ahead of our vehicles. To make this already long story shorter, he was able to pull the brush truck to the field entrance and I was able to follow and we made the trip back to the main road, and finally back to the engine house.

The moral of this story? I know this goes against a "Jeepers" spirit, but when weather gets bad and authorities tell you to stay home, please stay home. There are always idiots who will come out to try to save you and sometime they will need rescued. If you would like to see some of the adventures we get into, at good ole HFPD, you may check out our web site at www.harristownfpd.org

Be safe, be smart and I'll see you on the Trail

Chief

Welcome 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.

If you have joined recently and do not appear on this list, please contact our club secretary.

Jim & DebbieDurst	Quincy	IL	j.durst@sbcglobal.net	03-Oct-06
Chris Bradburn	Middletown	IL	c.bradburn@mchsi.com	22-Oct-06
John Mattson	Oswego	IL	jam71@comcast.net	01-Dec-06
Bill Williams	Waverly	IL	www13@dtnspeed.net	09-Dec-06
Greg Goodus	Rockford	IL	jeepgod3@aol.com	20-Jan-07
John Matz	Mt. Prospect	IL	johnamatz@yahoo.com	20-Jan-07
James & Kristine Piiparinen	Virginia	IL		23-Jan-07
Terry & Sandy Cochran	Springfield	IL	Jeepn61@insightbb.com	02-Feb-07
Jeff Vickery	Minooka	IL	jvickery@cin.net	08-Feb-07
Floyd & Jennifer Allen	Pittsfield	IL	rooster.73@hotmail.com	03-Feb-07
Robert "Doc"Livingston	Lakemoor	IL	DrNHL@hotmail.com	08-Feb-07
Mike Beddingfield	Jacksonville	IL		19-Feb-07

Club Directories

We've had a number of inquiries as to when the club directories will be available. Our club secretary is working on them and they will be out soon.

2007 Board Members and Responsibilities

Board Members

President	Lee Ator		217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750
Secretary	Frannie 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
Club Founder	Tom Wombles	twombles@adams.net	217-437-4361

Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & <i>BLAST</i>	Kelly Knoll	cjflyrod25@aol.com	815-978-9802
Promotional Items	Chad & Fran Suhre	franjan@verizon.net	217-742-9818
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Maxheimer	drmmaxheimer@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 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: March 15 (really!)

Two Rivers Jeep Club
870 State Route 106
Winchester, IL 62694

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Here



FIRST CLASS MAIL