



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 10 Issue 5

October 2007

Election Results and Changes in Leadership

TRJC members elected two people to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting October 13. There were a number of other changes in leadership. See Page 2 for details.



Rick Culberson, new Board member
and 2008 Safari and Blast Coordinator.



Jeff Sorensen, new Board member
and club Secretary.

New Address

TRJC now has a permanent address. For the last few years, as each Secretary would change, the address of our club would follow the Secretary's address. We now have a Post Office Box in Pittsfield as our address. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, all mail to TRJC will be picked up by the Chamber and forwarded to our Secretary, Treasurer, or whomever wherever they live. Our new address is

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

Upcoming Events

December 8: Christmas Party. Our Christmas party will be held in Pittsfield again this year. Additional details are on Page 2.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals will be sent out to all members in early November. The 2008 event schedule will be included in the renewal package as well as news of any changes that occur as a result of the 2008 TRJC Planning Meeting on November 3. If, by December 1, you do not receive a renewal, please contact Jeff Sorensen, club Secretary.

Election Results and Changes in Leadership

At our Annual General Meeting, Rick Culberson and Jeff Sorensen were elected to the Board of Directors replacing Tim Miller and Frannie Suhre. Tim and Frannie have served our club well and deserve our thanks.

Alan Grady was re-elected to another term. Rick, Alan, and Jeff will join the other Board members: Lee Ator, Charlie Ater, Jim Catt, Walt Gilbert, Hamer Tate, and Gary Williams.

2008 officers are Lee Ator, President; Gary Williams, Vice-President; Jeff Sorensen, Secretary and Hamer Tate, Treasurer.

Rick Culberson will resume the duties of event chair for both the Safari and Blast. Kelly Knoll did a great job this year but is unable to continue for 2008.



Jim Catt

In addition, Jim Catt will assume the duties for Technical Inspection from Chad Suhre. Doug Watret will assume the duties of Trail Maintenance Chair from Doug Maxheimer. Again, let's thank Chad and Doug for their hard work and efforts.

Chad and Frannie Suhre have maintained our club merchandise for a number of years and have relinquished that position. This position is still open for anyone wishing to step up and help the club with merchandise sales to members and guests at our public events. Please contact Lee Ator if you'd be willing to help.



Doug Watret

The rotation of jobs like these within the club is good as it prevents burnout. Please thank those who have served so well in the past and please give your full support to those who have volunteered and stepped up for 2008. It's a daunting task to maintain two public events, work weekends, trail maintenance, member events, and the constant work required for club membership records, website and newsletter. Please, if you are willing to help any of those handful of folks that keep this club running, let them know. If we can spread out the work a little, there will be much less chance of folks becoming overloaded.

Christmas Party

Saturday December 8: Christmas Party. Our Christmas party will be held in Pittsfield at the VFW. Meet at **5 PM** for socializing. At 6, a meal of turkey and all the trimmings will be served. After that, there will be a gift exchange for those who wish to participate. If you bring a gift, \$10.00 is the suggested value, unless of course it's an old Jeep part! Alan Grady has donated a certificate for Allied Racing Wheels.....buy 2 and get 2 free. This certificate will be given away at the party...and if you win and have no need for them, turn the ticket back in and let it go around again. It might be fun.



You must respond to Becky or Donnie at 217-285-1553 no later than December 3 if you want to attend. We need to make sure we do not over order the food as the cost for this meal comes out of our TRJC general funds.

This will be a fun filled night for the adults as well as the kids. See you there!!!

Rick's Ramblings

By Rick Culberson, Board Member and Safari/Blast Chair

Hello members of Two Rivers Jeep Club. I'm Rick Culberson, one of the new Board members elected at the General Meeting. I have been in the club for around 10 years and have been a guide on Pokey's Run for the past two or three years, maybe longer, who keeps track? I have also helped out with my fellow members and supposedly coordinated both the Safari and the Blast for a year or two, OK maybe three. I have learned from others to surround yourself with good help and then you will always look good, so that is just what I did.

My wife, Shelley, and I live on Pana Lake, about 2.5 hours East of Pittsfield, just south of Decatur. We have four children and soon to have our 7th grandchild. We have three dogs and some of Chief's raccoons. I don't know how they found my house, but they did. I guess that's what I get for making fun of him getting stuck.

We run the Blue Bell Club, a bar on Lake Pana, and have had it for around 13 years. I have been with the State of Ill. Department of Transportation for 29 years, working highway construction. So when you are driving to Pittsfield you can blame me for the orange barrels, although I try to work closer to home. I've been on US 51 just north of Pana for the last two years.

For my Jeeps, you will see me in a white 1997 TJ. It's the one usually sitting on the trailer after the first day. I also have a 1953 3-A, and a 1964 CJ-5 with roll up windows, the 1st one I have ever owned. Am slowly rebuilding both of the older Jeeps and, if any of you know me, that will take some time. I have to buy new parts for my TJ every time I take it out.

During the next year, it sounds like I may be the coordinating the Safari and the Blast. All of you that have helped in the past; I thank you very much and hope you will continue to support me with the future Safaris and Blasts and all of the new helpers. I hope they will also continue with whatever project they were doing. My phone number, cell number and e-mail have not changed so you have three ways to contact me if you have any questions.

I hope that during my term on the board that I will be of support to the club and its members. Please come up and talk to me. Tell me your story or how much fun you had on the trail. Tell me if you had a problem also and maybe we can get it fixed. I do ask all of you as members to please tell your friends about Two Rivers Jeep Club. Maybe they have a friend who drives a Jeep. I also ask you as members to get one person to sign up for the Safari or Blast in the next two years. That's not asking much....but just think... if all of you get one person, that's over 250 different people finding out about Two Rivers Jeep Club. That would sell out our two public events and would really help out the people of Pittsfield. After all, if it were not for the folks of Pike County we would all have to go out of state to 4-wheel. And I still think we have some of the prettiest and scenic trails around. I have not been to all of the trails in the country, but I have seen a lot, and Pike County offers some of the best all around trails and friendliest people you can meet.

OK, time to stop the rambling. I'll wrap it all up. Stop and talk to me. Tell me stories or stop and hear mine, it will always be a tale. Get new people and old ones to come to the two public events. Help get new people to join the club. One other thing....write good articles for the newsletter. How are we to know how much fun you had if we do not hear about it? Plus it's a way to let the land owners know you had a good time also.

Looking forward to a great year of wheelin'..... *Rick*

Better Late Than Never Run, AGM, and Ma Earth

By Alan Grady



The weather was great for a day out in the woods. I took a break from guiding the Atlas trail and brought my 7 year old daughter, Anna. The morning started out with just a few Jeeps in the parking lot, but by the time it was time to hit the trail it was a very good turn out, about 20-25 rigs. We all headed to Dutch Creek. An over heated transmission, which melted my shifter cable, left myself, Dan & Jeff in the field for a trail side repair. It wasn't long and we caught up to the group. Although it was a large group, we moved real well, took a lunch break and headed over to Murphy's trail in the afternoon. After a two trail day, the dinner out at Gary and Sharon's pond was a great end to the day. It's been a long time since such a large group has run two trails in one day. It just shows how hard the trail guides work to GET-R-DONE!

Ma Earth Run/AGM

The AGM had a small but enthusiastic group with good ideas about spreading the word on TRJC and its events. We all need to take some time and talk to Jeepers we see in our towns and let them know how much fun they can have if they would join our Club.

Ma Earth Run

It was great to see a couple of new members sign up for the Atlas trail. It's not often we get new "guests" out that way. Then it started raining and it kept raining. We took a look at the sign-up sheet and noticed Atlas was scratched off. Damn, no new victims for Atlas, but wait.....Jeff Sorensen must not be thinking straight. He ran for the Board and took the Secretary's job, so with a little coercion and prodding from Dan & Jim, the 3 of us headed to Atlas. Well the rain was just enough to make the traction gods happy and since traction was so good we all ran the trail backwards. No big problems....well nothing a really big hammer and pry bar wouldn't fix! Seems Jeff's door didn't want to stay shut so after the 99th time we heard SLAM, then "This !*#! door," we stopped for lunch and with Jeff watching, Jim Catt (heavy equipment mechanic) proceeded to massage the door gently in to its original factory position! Well truth be told Jim, Dan, Thomas and myself beat the crap out off that door to keep it shut, not so much for Jeff's sanity, but how could we have the new club Secretary risk any chance to injure his hands!! Well, no rolls, fires, breakage, steering parts, or dents.....just good fun. Atlas it's not just for damaging your Jeep.....really! Coming next year, bypasses will be available on Atlas!

HEEEEEEEELLLLLPPPPPP!

We have several events that need someone to coordinate them. Simply put - **no coordinator, no event!!!**

1. **February: Kickoff dinner**
2. **End of March: Member Appreciation Dinner and Trail Ride**
3. **Early September: Better Late than Never 4th of July Run**
4. **Early December: Christmas Party**

Each year we struggle to get people to organize these events. That's over. This year, if we have no volunteers to organize these events, we simply won't have them. These don't take a lot of effort, but they do require someone to make some decisions and pull it together. There are people that will help guide you to help organize so you're not on your own. Please call the club phone 866-483-3982 or email davec@millenicom.com if you will help your club. **Remember: No coordinator – no event!**

The Prez Sez

From Lee Ator, President, TRJC



We made it through 2007! A few new events were added this year that were very well received by those who attended. While our public events were down in numbers, TRJC did not lose money on the events and we were still able to make donations back to the community. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a great year for the club. I ask you to please renew your membership when you get it in the mail and try to find others to sign up for the club also. Remember the Christmas Party December 8 and I hope to see a lot of you there. Happy Thanksgiving!

Trail Maintenance

By Doug Watret

Well, another year of wheeling has come & gone. It's hard to believe that winter is fast approaching. It seems like it was just last week that we had the kickoff dinner & first trail building, but here we are. It's that time of year to buy new things for the Jeep to fix and/or improve our rigs. I know I will.

As some of you may know, and for those of you that don't, Doug Maxheimer has stepped down as Trail Maintenance Coordinator. He had served in this position for several years. PeeJ did a fantastic job. Next time you see him at a trail builder or other club event, let him know how much we all appreciated his time and effort that he put in to make our club and trails the best that they are.

That said, it is my pleasure (I think) to tell you that I will be assuming his vacated position. Many of you already know me. For those who don't, I am Doug Watret. I've been a club member since 2005 and a trail guide with Charlie Ater (the one that knows the correct spelling of his last name, unlike our current club president 😊) Charlie and I have been guiding Hopewell for two years now and have enjoyed every minute of it. My wife Jennifer and two kids, Jake and Madi, help on the trail also. We have enjoyed the friendly people and the family oriented atmosphere that abounds in TRJC.

As this is my first year as your trail coordinator; I will do my best to keep our trails at the level that we have come to expect. I will probably be calling on people from time to time for help and input. I am open to ideas and suggestions from trail guides and regular members.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season as they are fast approaching. Don't forget the TRJC Christmas party, December 8th. I hope to see a lot of you there. Be watching for the schedule of events for 2008 and plan on attending the trail builders and other club events. I'll see everyone at the kickoff weekend in February.

Keep all four wheels down, *Doug*

The Trail of Life

by Chief



Many years ago I received a call asking if I would like to contribute to the TRJC Newsletter by compiling "happenings" of the individuals of Two Rivers Jeep Club. The idea was that members would send me information about events in their lives that they would like to share with the other club members and I would put it into the newsletter each issue. I thought to myself, yeah, I can do that, after all, all the information will be provided. I will just have to organize it. Well, in the vernacular of Gomer Pyle, "**Surprise Surprise!!**" I eagerly waited for information to arrive in my snail mail box, or my e-mail, or even my fax number. Many nights I sat before my computer screen just waiting for the next bit of information to pop up in the "YOU'VE GOT MAIL" window, but alas, seldom did anything come to be disseminated in my column.

At first I just thought it was because it was a new concept, people will have to get used to it. Then I thought, "People are just shy, they will come around". Silly me, after the first few events I attended, I quickly learned Jeepers are not shy. Information would sometimes trickle in, but most of the information I received, I had to dig for it. I found myself struggling to find material to fill the space I was committed to fill. Then out of nowhere came a nearly endless stream of material in the form of experiences of my life, amazing events I could write about: the Raccoon Wars.

Veteran readers are probably sick of hearing about the mini-series of sometimes bloody battles. I have tried to change the anti-raccoon attitude of the "Trail of Life" column, but it seems it always comes back to remembrances of the challenging times. I related to Dave Christensen, I was beginning to feel one dimensional in my writing. I do write other articles for a couple other publications and have managed to refrain from mentioning the furry little demons.

I guess I felt comfortable in sharing these experiences with others who enjoy being outdoors with every type of biting insect and every poisonous form of vegetation on earth. With people who enjoy getting into mud that never washes out of your clothes and leaves permanent stains in the paint on your Jeep. With people who will bust their butt to get you out of a bad situation when you are bumper deep in that foul smelling mixture of organic deposits they call mud in Pike County. People like Rick Culberson who never ever bring up the time when you got stuck going down hill. People who think working through every type of obstacle in rain, snow, and heat to get a line of Jeeps through a trail so everyone can get back in time for a super dinner at the Legion. And finally, people who would give you anything you need to make sure you have a good time on the trails and who generously give back to the community that welcomes them. *These are the kind of people that make up Two Rivers Jeep Club and I am proud to be a part of it.*

If you have an event in your life you would like to share with the club, e-mail me at. You may also call me at 217-423-2917.

- Our condolences to Barb and Carl Seymour. Barb's mother recently passed away.
- Congratulations to Me! I reached my 40th year in the fire service on October 17. (I started real young.) You can check out the station's website at www.harristownfpd.org

Words of Wisdom: Why do psychics have to ask you for your name? And, while eagles may soar, weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

God Bless.....*Chief*

2008 Board Members and Responsibilities

Board Members

President	Lee Ator		217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750
Secretary	Jeff Sorensen	jeffsorensen@mchsi.com	815-943-3163
Treasurer	Hamer Tate		217-833-2861
Board Member	Charlie Ater	c8r3@irtc.net	217-742-3275
	Jim Catt	riddle01@comcast.net	815-469-1484
	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
	Walt Gilbert	waltpj@big-river.net	573-324-6464
	Alan Grady	cgrady5600@sbcglobal.net	815-838-8611
Club Founder	Tom Wombles	twombles@adams.net	217-437-4361

Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & <i>BLAST</i>	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Watret	watret_4@netzero.com	217-435-7931
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: Dues are \$60.00 per year for a family membership. Yearly membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Dues are to be paid by November 1st each year with a 30 day grace period. First time memberships accepted after June 1 will be \$30 for the balance of the year. Landowners, Board Members, Trail Guides, and major Committee Chairs receive 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: December 15

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

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