



# Two Rivers Tracker

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

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## Coming Events

- **May 15 -17** - 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Illini 4x4 Safari. **Please invite your friends and extend the invitation to other Jeep clubs you may know of. We need to ensure good attendance at the Safari and Blast so we can continue these events.**
- **June 21** – Father's Day run sponsored by Durrell and Syndy. Meet at the VFW at 8 AM for breakfast and then caravan to the TNT Farm for a day of fun. RSVPs will be required...more information to follow.
- **July 12** – Ladies Day Run and the Night at the Movies. This was a new event last year and so well received that we will do it again this year. Lisa Catt is organizing the run. RSVPs will be required...more information to follow.
- **July 26** - A day of trail building before the BLAST. This will be our only builder before the *BLAST* so reserve that day to help on the trails.
- **Aug 7 – 9** – This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 4x4 *BLAST*. Please invite your friends and extend the invitation to other Jeep clubs you may know of for this event also. We need to ensure good attendance at the Safari and Blast so we can continue these events.



**Sad News**..... March 23 - One of our members and friend, Dennis Andersen (Fuzzy) passed away in Phoenix after battling a brain tumor. See Chief's column in this newsletter.

Fuzzy – we will remember you, your great sense of humor, your smile, and your yellow Jeep. We had a lot of fun with you on the trails. You will be missed.



# Member's Appreciation Day, March 29

## Atlas

Courtesy of the Schumachers

It was a beautiful day when we met at the VFW for the first club run of the year. Breakfast was great and everyone got to socialize a lot. Alan Grady was nice enough to allow Chris and I to try Atlas even though we only had a 3.5 inch lift and 33" tall tires. He told us that there were a couple of sections we wouldn't be able to run but that we'd be able to watch the others and get photographs. When we arrived we found the ground to be soft and somewhat muddy and everyone aired down their tires. At the first climb I attempted to follow Thomas Grady up the hill four times and finally had to stop and get some good advice from Alan Grady and Jim Catt. After airing my tires down from 14 lbs to 10 lbs and being told to hit it hard in third gear until I was clear of the mud I managed to make it fairly easily on the next attempt. Alan and Jim were really good about giving me guidance and adult supervision and for the most part we managed to climb everything we came to. On an area where we watched the others navigate a creek, climb a hill (winching some Jeeps) and then return to the creek we watched Thomas as he and Alan were both unable to climb out of the creek due to the mud. After they winched the Jeep out of the creek I got the pleasure of winching their Jeep the rest of the way up the hill as there was no traction at all. I caught some flack about how slow hydraulic winches are, and everyone else bypassed the spot.

We stopped for dinner at that time and everyone sat in the warm sunlight and socialized. I found out that real men eat canned Cheez Wiz on cold hot dogs when they run on Atlas, it looked scrumptious.

After dinner we were back at it and a couple of muddy spots later I knew I was in trouble when Thomas Grady had to make two or three attempts to get out of a creek. I made a few attempts and then Thomas got the chance to return the favor and strapped me out of the creek. I think it was payback time for my winching him earlier as Thomas seemed to really enjoy throwing mud all over our Jeep while pulling us out of the creek. When Alan took a picture of the Jeep I saw that Thomas had a big grin on his face and later he wouldn't even help pay to wash the Jeep.

I do have to say that we weren't the only Jeep pulled or winched that day so we don't feel too bad. Everyone was really understanding and helpful with us and no one seemed to mind that we slowed them down a few times. Atlas was really fun and I hope to be able to run it again in drier weather.

# A Photo Gallery of this Spring's Fun



Hamer – providing “incentive” to do a good job clearing his trail.



Murphy's – again and again!



# The Trail of Life

by Chief



When I began to write this column several years ago, I struggled for a title. I really didn't know what I would write about each issue. I know those who asked me to write the column wanted me to provide a forum to present the happenings in the lives of the club members. Personal items of interest the club members would like to share with the other members. I decided on the name "Trail of Life". It made sense to me. We all like trail rides and life mirrors a good trail ride, or visa versa. Anyway it was a great concept, but I soon discovered it was going to be a very short column if I only included what was sent to me. I then began to write about personal experiences. This brought to the forefront the "Raccoon Wars" and other hopefully memorable stories and happenings of my life. Well, like the trails we ride on, life sometimes provides some twists, turns and rollovers we didn't expect. There is really never any guarantee we will come back from the trail in the same shape as we started. And sometime we may not come back from the trail at all. Life, like "Jeepin" is unpredictable.

I spent a good number of years guiding Murphy's Law with a gentleman who I was honored to know and become friends with. A man who, in my observation never had a bad day on the trail. A man who would do whatever it took to ensure whoever was on the trail had a good day, and a good experience to report back to his friends. I didn't even know his real name for the first year or two. All I knew him by was Fuzzy. I learned a lot from Fuzzy about Jeepin. I learned a lot from Fuzzy about life. He had a lot of knowledge and experience with off-roading, and an easy way of passing that knowledge along without being pushy or offending. I don't think Fuzzy ever offended anyone. His broad smile and wide brimmed cowboy hat said it all. He was who he was. His yellow CJ was his trademark in simplicity. Nothing fancy, but extremely efficient.

As I think back to the days on the trail Fuzzy and I shared, there are numerous times I consider as "Fuzzy moments". Fuzzy never got rattled. He just looked at the situation and said, what about if we did this, or did that, knowing he had the answer, but giving the opportunity for other opinions. Fuzzy would have been a good Fire Chief. Anyway, one day after taking a group through "carburetor alley" we were regrouping to go to lunch. Fuzzy scrambled back into his Jeep and promptly backed off the ledge, laying his jeep over onto its top. Unfazed by the quick trip, he unbuckled, crawled out and said, "I guess I should have looked before I backed up". We set his jeep back up on four wheels and after a little smoking, all was right with the world again. I have more stories about how Fuzzy enriched my Jeepin experience and my life. I know many of you do also. I encourage you to think back on those times and share them with friends. The blessings of friendship are to be shared and remembered. Fuzzy may be gone physically, but will always be in our memories. His life is a testimony to his belief and faith in God, and his desire to make an impact for good in everything he did.

Fuzzy, I will miss you, but I believe in the promise given to those who believe, I will see you again.

Also, please keep Maureen Winckler in your thoughts and prayers. Maureen is recovering from surgery, being diagnosed with cancer. She has 6 – 8 weeks left of chemo and is doing well. Maureen – we wish you a speedy and complete recovery.

Be Safe, and I will See Ya on the Trail,

*Chief*

# Safari Report

By Rick Culberson

The Safari is ready to go. Thanks to all those who have worked so hard to organize it. We only have one opening left – we desperately need someone to staff the merchandise booth at the event. Lots of people like to buy shirts, cups, etc. but we can't sell them if no one helps. Please, if you can spare a couple hours each day, give me a call at 217-562-5145 and help out. Thanks.

## Short and Late Newsletter

This is a late, short newsletter. That's what happens when one goes out to Moab for 4 weeks and spends some of that time wheelin' with the likes of the Mad Brit. Other than a test of Graham's new winch line (we won't say on whose Jeep), it was a great time. Well, OK, even *that* was fun. Read about the adventure here:

<http://www.millenicom.com/~davec/Jeep/Moab/2008/index.htm>

## Just in time for the Safari

I have a newly remodeled house in Milton next to the restaurant across the street from the gas pumps. It is a 4 bedroom 2 full bath 2100sq ft single floor. I am only using 3 of the bedrooms and can put 2 persons in each bedroom for a total of six people per night. We have 2 TVs, a kitchen, and the house is fully furnished in every room. I am getting a pool table and ping pong soon. It has new central air and heat as well. It rents for \$35.00 per night per person they have the house to themselves. Just treat it like your home. If you get it out, put it away. If you dirty it, clean it. Simple as that. Call Tyler at 217 370 6168.

## President's Report

By Lee Ator

Let me echo what Rick said. Thanks to all of you who have helped prepare for the Safari and get the trails in order. Thanks to those of you who will be working that day also. We can't do any of this without your help.

We still have openings for the Safari so please, if you have any friends you'd like to invite, now is the time!

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