



# Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 11 Issue 6

December 2008

## Happy Holidays to All

Lee Ator, TRJC President

I'd like to wish all TRJC members a very happy holiday season and the very best in the New Year. Our club is doing great and even when we have events that don't involve wheeling, like our Christmas party, we still have a good turn out. Speaking of that, we had a great time at the VFW with about 35 attending. We even had a tree decorated with photos of Jeeps – free for the taking (the photos that is!)



The November planning meeting went really well. Included in this newsletter is the 2009 calendar as well as details of the meeting and some changes in our events and when they are held.

While membership rates have not changed, we did increase the cost of the Safari and Blast very slightly to cover the increased costs of meals and other fixed costs. Members of TRJC still get a substantial discount for the two events.

We look to 2009 as a good year for our club. We have many fun events as well as a vehicle recovery refresher course scheduled. This will be another great year of camaraderie and wheeling!



**If you have a sticker on the front of your newsletter, it means you have not yet renewed. Please consider renewing now, before you forget – and also to get your name in the 2009 club directory! Our club provides the best and the most trails on which to wheel in the Midwest. With our many catered dinners and Safari/Blast discounts, membership is a real bargain. Please renew now to continue to be part of the best Jeep club in the Midwest!**

# TRJC 2009 Event Calendar

Date		TRJC Event	Location	Time
Feb	7	First Trail Builder of the Season	VFW	8:00 AM
	21	Trail Builder		8:00 AM
		Board Meeting		4:30 PM
		Kickoff Dinner (catered) & Directory Distribution		6:00 PM
Mar	1	Registration opens for the 8th Illini 4x4 Safari		
	7	Trail Builder	VFW	8:00 AM
	21	Trail Builder		8:00 AM
Apr	4	Member Trail Ride	VFW	8:00 AM
		Board Meeting		4:30 PM
		Member Appreciation Dinner (catered)		6:00 PM
	18	Trail Builder		8:00 AM
		Vehicle Recovery Course - <i>On the trail</i>		
May	2	Board Meeting	VFW	8:00 AM
		Trail Builder		
	14	Registration opens for the 4x4 <i>BLAST</i>		
	14-16	8th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari (open to public)	American Legion	4 PM Thu
Jun	20	Board Meeting	VFW	7:30 AM
		TNT Farm Father's Day Run & Catered Dinner		8:00 AM
Jul	11	4th of July Run	VFW	8:00 AM
	25	Board Meeting		7:30 AM
		Trail Builder		8:00 AM
Aug	6-8	11th Annual 4x4 Blast (open to public)	American Legion	4 PM Thu
	22	Ladies Day on the Trail and a Night at the Movies	VFW	8:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Sep	26	Annual General Meeting and Board Elections	VFW	8:00 AM
		Board Meeting		9:30 AM
		Ma Earth Run		10:00 AM
Oct	24	Tentative Road Run in place of a Trail Run	VFW	8:00 AM
Nov	7	Board Meeting (2010 Event Planning)	VFW	1:00 PM
Dec	5	Christmas Party	VFW	5:00 PM
May '10	13-15	2010 - 9th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari		
Aug '10	5-7	2010 - 12th Annual 4x4 Blast		

The Feb. 21 Kickoff Dinner will be coordinated by Lee and Tammy Ator.  
 The April 4 Appreciation Dinner will be coordinated by Alan Grady and Jeff Sorensen.  
 The April 18 Vehicle Recovery Course will be coordinated by Brenda McKinley.  
 The June 20 Father's Day Run will be sponsored by Durrell and Syndy Miller.  
 The Blast, Safari and Aug. 22 Ladies Day & Movie will be coordinated by Lisa Catt.  
 Other Event Coordinators will be identified later.

**If you have questions on the events or, more importantly are willing to help these folks, they would appreciate hearing from you. These events take time and effort and offers to help from other members would be a great show of support for these volunteers.**

# 2009 TRJC Events and Changes

- We've had to move the Annual General Meeting and Ma Earth Run to late September. Many landowners are leasing their properties to hunters and requesting that we don't use their property after October 1. Moving the date of our last official run for the year will allow us to keep the run while respecting the landowner's requests.
- To balance out the events, the Better Late than Never 4<sup>th</sup> of July Run is moved back to the week after the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The amount that TRJC pays the American Legion for the meals served at the Safari and *BLAST* is critical to the Legion if they are to survive. It's a good deal for TRJC also as included in the meal prices we get the use of their entire facility for three full days. In order for our club to break even, and only to cover the cost of the meals, there is a \$10-\$20 increase in the registration costs for the Safari and *BLAST*. We will still give TRJC members a substantial discount for both events. These increases are only to cover the cost of the food and the Legion's facilities. These are the first price increases in **seven** years!
- The newsletter will continue to be published once every two months but we really need articles and photos from members to include in the newsletter.
- We have a coordinator for a hands-on safety training session this spring, Brenda McKinley. This will be done entirely on a trail and demonstrate safe recovery techniques in real-life situations and perhaps with assistance from local rescue personnel. This will be open to all TRJC members and will probably be required for all trail guides as a refresher
- We still have no volunteer for promotional items like jackets, cups, hats, etc. We could use some help. Please consider volunteering.
- ½ year memberships have been discontinued.



On February 7th, one of our members, Lou Goodman, will be swimming in the frigid waters of Lake St. Louis to raise money for Special Olympics Missouri. If you are willing to help Lou meet his goal, the link to his fundraising page is <http://www.firstgiving.com/louisgoodman>. This time of year would be a great opportunity to help. You may donate from Lou's page or contact him directly.

# The Trail of Life

by Chief



Here we are in the middle of the Holiday Season.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Last issue I promised you an entertaining and humorous story. Since I haven't been "Jeepin" since the Blast, I don't have any Jeep stories and the raccoons are still under control so they are no help. My wife, Mrs. Chief, still laughs every time she sees one lying along the road. There is just something about how they seemed to think it was their house and the huge piles they left in the attic and garage that really caused some bitterness. Lying in bed at night hearing them run back and forth between the floors and around the porch was a little unsettling also.

We did have an incident at the fire house that was one of those incidents that could have been tragic, but stopped just short of tragedy so now it's funny. We were called to assist the Sheriff's office in recovery of a vehicle which had been reported to be in a barrow pit along I-72 in a neighboring District. We have the only river Jon boat in the county, so we often get called for water rescues and recoveries. To make this story a little shorter, let me just say we dragged the lake and worked with divers for the whole first day to no avail. Every indication was there was a vehicle in the lake; we just could not find it. Okay, day one a bust. On day two we enlisted help from some friends from Vermilion County EMA who have a boat with SIDE SCAN SONAR. What a tool!! With this "fish finder on steroids", it took us longer to launch the boat than it did to locate the Toyota Tundra pickup truck in about 18 feet of water. We located it on the first pass, right where we had been looking the day before.

Okay, now the fun begins. The divers went down to hook up the tow cable to pull the vehicle out of the water. "We will be out of here by noon, no problem." The tow truck begins taking up the slack and pulling the vehicle the 75 yards to shore. "HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM"! (For those who may not know, borrow pits are made when dirt is taken from an area to build overpasses on interstates. Most are deep and have a rim around the side and then drop off rapidly to a depth of 40-50 feet.) The problem here is the vehicle was resting on the rim. That in itself was not a problem. The problem didn't become evident until the tow truck started pulling the truck towards the shore at an angle and the truck began to slide from the rim it was resting on at 18 feet, to the bottom of the drop off at 45 feet. In the process it came loose from the tow cable and was now freefalling to the bottom of the lake. As the truck came to a halt, we assumed it had reached the bottom. Remember this, NEVER assume anything.

As the divers brought up the tow chain to reconnect it to the cable, the truck decided to continue its downward slide. The diver in a last ditch, ill-conceived effort to maintain control of the chain, connected it to the eye on the bow of the boat. (This was not a Fire Department diver!) WRONG!!! Now the truck was also pulling the boat down into the water as it made its descent. It is amazing how wide some people can open their eyes when their butts are at maximum pucker. Only by the grace of God, the truck stopped its descent with the bow of the boat 2 inches from going under. With the tension on the chain from the recently acquired 4x4 anchor, a hammer was called into play to break the eye off the front of the boat.

Disaster was averted and with the help of some excellent divers from Decatur Fire Department the truck was reattached to the cable and pulled from its watery grave. It had been stolen and driven into the pit. This is the third vehicle we have recovered this year in similar circumstances. Well, all in a day's work. The Sheriff was so impressed with the Side Scan Sonar he offered to help us get one. We took him up on it so now we are Sonar equipped also. It should really help at the Bass Tournaments next summer.....Just Kidding.

See Ya on the Trail,  
**Chief**

Words of Wisdom:

Two can live as cheap as one if one don't eat.  
When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty!!  
Don't name a pig you plan to eat.

**The December 2008 issue of Four Wheeler has a list of the 25 most "awesome events and trails" in the US. TRJC's Illini 4x4 Safari is listed as one of the best. Pick up a copy of the magazine and see who else we're rated with.**

**Also - check out Petersen's 4 Wheel & Offroad magazine, the Feb. 2008 issue, where TRJC is featured in the Club Spotlight.**

Thanks to Mark Schumacher for contacting these publications and writing the articles.

## *2009 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
	Mark Schumacher	m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net	309-523-3918
	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>	Lisa Catt	riddle01@comcast.net	815-469-1484
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Watret	watret4@royell.org	217-435-7931
Newsletter, Web	Dave Christensen	davec@millenicom.com	630-393-3314

**TRJC Web Page:** <http://www.trjc.com/>

**Club e-mail:** [trjc1@trjc.com](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> each year with a 30 day grace period. 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: February 24**



# Two Rivers Jeep Club

## PO Box 47

### Pittsfield IL 62363-0047

(630) 717-5337 or (866) 483-3982 email: [trjc1@trjc.com](mailto:trjc1@trjc.com) web: [www.trjc.com](http://www.trjc.com)

# 2009 Membership Enrollment Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Work \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Cell \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Jeep(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type

<b>PAID MEMBER</b> (Choose one only) <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (\$60.00) <input type="checkbox"/> New (\$60.00)
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OR

<b>COMPLIMENTARY</b> (Choose all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Land Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Special Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Only
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Do not publish my address in the club directory

Deliver notices and newsletters via email only

Checking this box means you will receive only minimal paper notifications and no paper copy newsletter.

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. Membership renewals are to be received by **December 1** if you want your name in the club directory. 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 IL 62363-0047

Place  
Stamp  
Here



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**