



# Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 12 Issue 1

February 2009

## Upcoming Events

To help contain costs, there will NOT be any postcard notifications sent out for these events. This will be the only notice.

### **March 7, 21 and May 2: Trail Building Weekends.**

Meet at the VFW. Trails Leave at 9:00 AM. Breakfast starts at 7:00 AM. Trails to be determined based on needs and also weather conditions. Check the website ahead of time for any last minute changes.

### **April 4: Member Appreciation Dinner and Trail Ride.**

Meet at the VFW for breakfast. A number of trails will be offered leaving at 9:00 AM. There will be a Board meeting at 4:30 PM followed by a free catered dinner for all members at 6:00 PM, also at the VFW. You must RSVP if you plan on attending so we do not over order on the food. RSVP to Jeff Sorensen, 815-943-3163 or e-mail [jeffsorensen@mchsi.com](mailto:jeffsorensen@mchsi.com) by April 1 if you plan on attending. For you new members, this will be a way to get to meet people and have a great day wheeling!

### **April 18: Advanced Vehicle Recovery Class.**

Join us at the VFW for breakfast and then at 9 AM we'll head to Murphy's Law for a day of hands-on vehicle recovery training. There will be no classroom sessions, all the time will be spent on the trail demonstrating ways to safely recover vehicles and also to attend to injuries on the trail. The course will be taught by experienced instructors and will also deal with such issues as taking command of an incident and dealing with victim recovery from accidents, communications, medical attention, crowd control as well vehicle stabilization and recovery. **At least one Trail Guide/Helper from each trail will be required to attend. In addition, all TRJC members are encouraged to attend.** Please notify

Brenda McKinley [bmckinley926@hotmail.com](mailto:bmckinley926@hotmail.com) 217-370-4657 or

Mark Schumacher, [m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net](mailto:m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net) 309-523-3918

if you plan to attend or if you have any questions. This is the only notice that will be sent out so please mark the date on your calendar now and plan to attend.

### **May 14 – 18: 8th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari.**

By the time you get this, your invitation to the Safari will be in the mail. Sign up now to ensure a spot. We need to fill these events in order to have them continue - so if you have 4WD friends or you are a member of another Jeep club, contact them. Let them know about the Safari (and Blast) and invite them to attend. Extra registration forms may be found on the website or can be obtained by calling the club phone, 866-483-3982. We can either FAX or email registration forms to you or directly to your friends. We need to keep our participation up and you can help!

# 2009 Discounts for Two Rivers Members

## 10% Discount at Pine Lakes Campground

Pine Lakes Campground is offering a 10% discount to Two Rivers Jeep Club members anytime during the season. All you need do when making a reservation or checking in, is to show your membership card. If you don't have that with you, as long as you are in the club directory, you will receive a 10% discount each stay. (This discount will not apply on top of any other discounts, the Safari, Blast, or on holiday weekends.) Pine Lakes has also been gracious enough to extend the 10% discount to any non-member camper who camps during either the Safari or Blast weekends. Please help support local businesses that help support TRJC!

## 10% Lodging discounts during the Safari and Blast

We've negotiated a number of lodging discounts for the Safari and Blast. Member and non-member registrants will get a 10% discount during the Safari and Blast weekends at the following places:

- Butler Farms Outdoor Adventures
- Cherry's Guest House
- Green Acres Motel
- Motel Pike
- Pine Lakes Campground
- William Watson Hotel

There are more places being added all the time. Check the website for additions.

## 10% Discount at 4WD Hardware

Sign up through TRJC and receive a 10% discount on everything purchased through 4WD Hardware. In addition, TRJC receives a rebate at the end of the year amounting to 3% of all club member's purchases. This could add up if all members used the program.

Contact Mark Schumacher, [m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net](mailto:m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net), 309-523-3918, to sign up. All he needs is your name, address, telephone, and e-mail address. Once submitted, you will receive a packet from 4WD Hardware giving you an account number for the discount.

This is a good deal for you as well as TRJC. Please sign up today.

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## Thanks!

Thanks to Mark Schumacher, Lisa Catt and Jeff Sorensen for taking the time to call members who did not renew, speaking with them, and letting them know that we'd like them to re-join our family of Jeepin' friends. We've had a number of people who renewed based on the phone calls. Thanks also to Alan Grady for soliciting the ads which will help offset the cost of the directories. There are so many of these time consuming jobs in this club so it's great to see people who are willing to help with these tasks.

# Cost Cutting Measures

Our club income is down slightly because of the decreased Safari/Blast attendance due to the high gas prices last year. While **we still have ample funds in the club**, we are taking steps now to help reduce some of our costs, just like everyone else is doing in this crazy economy these days. In an effort to reduce some of the costs, we've made a few changes.

1. **Length of service stickers:** These will still be available to members but on a request-only basis instead of sent automatically. If you have a 5, 10 or 15 year membership in the club and wish a sticker, free of charge, please contact our Secretary, Jeff Sorensen.
2. **Club membership directory:** In the past we've included by-laws, vehicle registration and other information in the directory. This increases the printing and mailing costs as well as the effort required to assemble the directory. This year the directory will provide membership information and paid advertising (which helps defray the cost of the directories) but will not include the additional pages in previous directories. It will be mailed in the same envelope as the newsletter and Safari registrations.
3. **Postcards:** We will still send out postcards for special or unusual events, but members will have to rely more on the newsletter, the club calendar and the web page to remind them of upcoming events rather than sending out postcard reminders all the time.
4. **Safari/Blast Fees:** There are no plans to increase club membership fees. Safari and Blast fees increased slightly (\$20 or less) – the first time in many years.

These measures will help ensure that we can maintain our budget and still donate a significant amount of money, above and beyond raffle income, to the community that lets us wheel so openly on their land. You also may have heard that our local bank was taken over by the FDIC. Our funds were fully insured and we have lost no money. Our checking account is covered and our reserve funds are intact. In short, financially we are in good shape, but to continue to remain that way we will be watching expenditures.

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## The Prez Says

From Lee



We're off to a really good start this year. We had about 35 people that showed up for the first trail builder of the year. Then for the second trail builder and our kickoff dinner, we had almost 50 adults and a number of kids. We hope with fuel prices a little lower this will attract more people to come and enjoy the great trails and scenery we have.

And that's how you can also help. We need to keep the attendance up for the Safari and Blast so if you know of anyone that has a 4WD vehicle and wants to go off-road, tell them about our two events. We also have brochures available that you can give out. See me or any of the Board members when we are at the VFW and we'll give you some brochures.

On a much sadder note, we extend our condolences to club members Tom and Tim Miller. This was a difficult year for them as they lost both their parents. Fred and Pat did so much for our club and provided so many laughs and good times. We, along with Tom and Tim, will miss them dearly.

# The First Trail Builder of 2009

by Mark Schumacher



Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> was a great day in Pittsfield, for the first workday of the TRJC season, about 65 degrees and no snow. After meeting for a great breakfast we hit the New Salem Trail for a day of wheeling and to check the trail out for any damage from the winter storms. Immediately we found that there was about three inches of really slippery mud on top of frozen ground. It was hard to walk on some hillsides without the grass sliding away under your feet. There was a lot of winching done from the start and things were really slow going. As the day got warmer I think the mud got more slippery. It got to the point that by 1:00

we were sliding down hills without any control, a few Jeeps hitting trees while doing so. Chris and I called it a day. Doug Maxheimer and some other hardy soles walked in to the timber to mark some areas that will be cleared on the next workday. We intend to add some new loops to New Salem that are harder than the trail is rated. This will give people on the trail the option of trying something more difficult if they wish by getting off of the main trail.

Since returning home Chris and I have been busy in the garage. Yep, Chris works on the Jeep too, after all she says she owns two of them and I don't own a Jeep at all. We built and painted a new tire carrier, moved the Hi-Lift to the hood, took the tires off of the aluminum wheels and mounted them on some Allied bead locks that I bought used from Dan. We spent all day Friday the thirteenth mounting tires and getting them back on the Jeep. On Valentine's Day Chris spent hours cleaning the Mickey Thompson wheels so that we can sell them. You guys have to convince your wives and friends that if you ride in the Jeep you help work on it, it's a family thing.



# Trail Builder - Myer's Mayhem, Feb. 21, 2009

By Jim and Angel Linseth

We went out with Dennis, Dave and John to Myer's Mayhem. I talked to them before we started. I know I am not yet equipped for a 4 rated trail, but everyone assured me it would be fine. We stopped first at the lunch area and built a fire for later.

On the first little creek crossing I stuffed my bumper into the bank and had rubbing issues whenever we got flexed up. At first we did all right although we did need the hook a few times and had to fill some deep ruts with logs in a few places. The photos don't do it justice, this trail is wild!!! My unlocked CJ did pretty well all things considered but we kept Dave busy hooking us up so we could winch out of several spots.

My wife was worried a couple times. Once we were so far on our side that the seat belts would not release enough for her to reach the window crank to pass out the tree saver to Dave. My side was buried in a bank. After that, Dave kept it in Dennis' Jeep for the duration. Dennis had little trouble, although he did provide some entertainment trying to back up the trail. John's rig did good until he rolled the bead off a rear tire. We made an attempt to reseal it, but ended up putting on his spare.



Although we spent a lot of time winching, we still got some clearing done and I for one had a great time. I got a few new scars and I will now move my CB antenna to the back, instead of the side. My new winch would not free spool for some reason. If anyone is looking at the Smittybilt XRC 8000, if I had it to do over, I would hold out for a better one. It sounds as if the bearings or something are going already.

As always, I learned a lot on this run. It was fun to go on a new trail, and the trail guides took good care of us.

# 2nd Trail Builder & Kickoff Dinner

## New Salem, Feb. 21, 2009

By Mark Schumacher

Our second trail build of the year shaped up to be a lot different than the first which was 65 degrees and sunny with lots of mud. We woke up Saturday February 21st to a light dusting of snow and 22 degree weather with 25-35 miles per hour winds. We headed to the VFW wondering what type of turn out that we'd see. It was obvious at breakfast that some people had a much harder Friday night than Chris and I did (Dan's photo, right). By the time breakfast was over we found that we had a great turn out. Trails open for the day were Ridge Rambler, New Salem, Pokey's, Myer's Mayhem, and Atlas.



Chris and I headed out to New Salem with Rick Culberson going along to provide some supervision. Doug, Don, and Keegan Maxheimer were going to meet us there at noon. We found that the ground was fairly firm until you spun your tires through the surface and then it was slick mud. Before Doug and Don arrived we had checked most of the trail, cut up three trees that were blocking the trail, and found a couple of spots that looked good for new loops. Rick had bounced off of a tree and I had failed to climb the Hill of No Return. Shortly after lunch Doug and Don arrived and we then went back to looking for areas that we could expand the trail. Doug got too close to a drop off and had to be winched after sliding on the mud. A couple of spots were marked and Doug and Don went to talk to the land owner about what we had in mind. Chris and I headed for the motel so that we could take showers before the board meeting and the dinner.

The board meeting started on time and lasted a couple of hours. Before we were done people were arriving for the kick off dinner. We had over 60 people in attendance at the dinner and everyone seemed to have a good time, swapping stories and lying about their Jeeps.



It turned out to be a great day on the trail in spite of the weather, at least for those of us that had heaters that worked properly. For those of you that have never attended a trail build you really need to. We spent five hours on the trail with only about a half hour of that moving trees. That was a lot better than sitting at home with the Jeep parked in the garage.

I hope more people will attend the next trail build on March 7th. The weather should be better and we have some new loops to cut on New Salem and several of the trails have some work to compete also.

## Night Runs and Sunday Runs

We are going to start doing night runs after club runs. They will be done on either Murphy's Law or Dutch Creek. After the day's scheduled events people will be given time to clean up, eat and then meet at the VFW before we head out. We will let people know where the night run will be held at breakfast the day of the event. This has been talked about before and is done so that those of us that travel can have more time on the trails to make it worth while. We also talked about doing some Sunday morning trail rides. The club will not provide meals to save money and make it easier on everyone that is setting this up. This will be done on trail building weekend in the better weather. Notices will be on the web page, but if you have any questions, please contact Mark Schumacher, [m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net](mailto:m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net), 309-523-3918.

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## Non-Jeep Guests

While we are an all Jeep club, we will allow someone without a Jeep, or with a vehicle other than a Jeep, to join the club if that vehicle meets our wheelbase requirements. They will be allowed to join and wheel for one year but will not be allowed to renew if they have not purchased a Jeep to wheel with during that year. Non-members cannot drive on our trails anytime except for the Safari and Blast. They can sign a waiver and ride with a member anytime, however. Our insurance policy is quite specific about this.



# The Trail of Life

by Chief



Another "Jeepin" season has begun. Mrs. Chief and I managed to tear ourselves away from the home front to attend the Annual Kickoff Dinner on the 21st. It was well attended and we enjoyed seeing everyone. Last year I didn't make very many events other than the Safari, the Blast and a couple of work weekends. My excuse was the same as many other TRJC members, "I was busy". "Well, I thought you are retired" is the next comment I hear. I try not to whine and complain on a regular basis, but I am constantly getting comments about "How is that retirement?" I get the comments about being busier now than when I had a job. Well, let me explain my situation.

I did retire from the phone company after 31 years and 4 months of employment as an installer/repairman in 2002, but I did not retire, I changed jobs. While working at my mercenary job (the phone company) I also volunteered at the Harristown Fire Protection District. I started there in 1967, and rose through the ranks to become Fire Chief in 1981. In that time, I taught and also retired as an Instructor at Richland Community College Fire Science Program. So you see when I retired from the phone company, I really didn't retire, I merely changed jobs. I was not old enough or was I ready to retire when I left the phone company. I had come to the point that I knew I had all the fun I was going to have there.

I have yet to wake up in the morning and experience the burning desire to climb a utility pole. I don't miss the frustration of looking through a 600 pair cable for a specific pair of wires in 0 degree weather, unable to wear gloves while doing so. I don't miss the wind of winter stinging my face while hanging on a pole, cussing the engineer who decided to hang a terminal in such a position that I must face the wind, and I definitely don't miss trying to squeeze behind a two ton water bed to get to the defective phone jack that the cat decided to relieve himself on or the phone jacks full of cockroaches. Basically I don't miss anything about the phone company except maybe the paycheck, when I hear the crack of an axle or crunch of a fender while running the trails.

So, now, I spend my hours at the Fire House, training new firefighters, going to meetings, serving on committees, answering alarms and generally taking care of business. Something I love doing, though I know I will eventually need to retire from that also. But until that day, I am keeping busy on my "New, Old Job." Check out our website [www.harristownfpd.org](http://www.harristownfpd.org)

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Tim and Tom Miller and their family with the passing of their father Fred Miller. Fred and Pat Miller, their mother, who passed away in December of 2008, will be greatly missed by TRJC and all who had the opportunity to know them and consequently love them. God Bless

See Ya on the Trail,

*Chief*

## *2009 Board Members and Responsibilities*

### Board Members

President	Lee Ator	No e-mail	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	No e-mail	217-833-2861
Board Members	Charlie Ater	c8r3@irtc.net	217-742-3275
	Jim Catt	riddle01@comcast.net	815-823-6663
	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
	Mark Schumacher	m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net	309-523-3918
	Alan Grady	cgrady5600@sbcglobal.net	815-838-8611

### 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 upon request.

**Next Newsletter Deadline: April 24**

