



Two Rivers Tracker

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

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Upcoming Events

November 7: Annual planning meeting. The Board will meet at the VFW, 1 PM, to set the dates and the events for 2010. This is an opportunity for all members to provide input on the yearly events, including the Safari and Blast. If you cannot attend, contact one of the Board members and let them know your thoughts and they can pass that information along at the meeting.

Announcements

2010 Help Needed

Each year we have a difficult time identifying volunteers to coordinate some of our member events. This year, for example, we have no one to coordinate the Christmas Party so it will probably not be held. For 2010 events, in an effort to allow members to volunteer ahead of time, we'll list the events that require a coordinator. If you are willing to coordinate an event, please email or call the club phone and let us know which one. Events not listed are already covered. The exact dates will be set at the planning meeting to try and avoid conflicts with other events and holidays.

Each year the same people coordinate and are getting burned out or are unable to coordinate for a variety of reasons. We really need to get new folks to volunteer and help. It's not that much work and we can give you information on what needs to be done. Please let us know if you are willing to coordinate an event. Thanks!

Feb – Kickoff Dinner

Apr – Member Appreciation Dinner

Apr – Possible vehicle recovery course

Jul – 4th of July run

Sep – Ma Earth Run

Oct – Road run

Dec – Christmas party

The Annual General Meeting of TRJC was held September 26. Officers re-elected were Jim Catt, Gary Williams, and Hamer Tate. Doug Watret will continue with Trail Leadership and Maintenance. Raffle proceeds from the Safari and Blast were distributed to the Pike County Senior Citizens, Pike County Habitat for Humanity, and the Pike County Skaters.

Membership renewal is in progress. You should have received a membership renewal form in the mail. If not, contact Jeff Sorensen immediately. **Please return your form no later than November 9.** This will allow time to contact members who have not returned forms and allow preparation of the club directory for distribution at our kick off meeting next year. If you know of anyone interested in joining TRJC, please give them a copy of the form in this newsletter. TRJC members' word of mouth is the best way for us to attract new members and keep them.

Trail of Life

By Chief

I know I am a little behind time in much of today's modern technology. I don't necessarily resist it, but its sometimes extremely difficult for me to understand the new electronic technology and to become proficient at it. I have become utilitarianly efficient at my computer, and have found e-mail to be indispensable, but I use my cell phone only as a phone, or the best ever tool, Direct Connect. I refuse to text and am amazed how some people find it easier to text rather than talk. The other electronic items which are a life's necessity for my grand-kids are totally over my head. I said all this to lead into this:



I have had a Garmin GPS for years. You know, the kind that sets way-points, shows you where you are and lines out a path on a map of where you have been and how to get to where you want to go. I have noticed over the years the map seems to have shrunken to a nearly impossible scale to distinguish but it has been a handy tool. Well, Mrs. Chief and I recently ran away from home for a much needed vacation. Deciding to go to the east this time, we ended up first in Gettysburg Pa., along with every Boy Scout in the ten state area and Washington DC.

Here is where I have come to embrace the new, or at least improved technology. While in Chambersburg Pa. we were studying our antiquated paper maps, we came to the conclusion we were going to need some help in the maze of roads and highways so prevalent in the east. Enter the thinking, mapping and talking Garmin GPS. What a savior. I am sure all of you already know this, but to my surprise, these devices even show you all the places to eat, sleep, shop, or visit in the area and most importantly how to get there. I have found that when you miss a turn, the friendly voice gets a little bitchy. I am sure I have detected a touch of sarcasm and some "DUH" in her voice, and I sometimes have caught myself responding to her attitude, but she is forgiving and will quickly recalculate a new route to get me back on track.

As I write this issue, I am sitting in Washington DC, exactly where I am suppose to be to the credit of the GPS unit which so patiently guided me through some harrowing high-speed expressway rush hour driving and complicated inner city street layouts. I am beginning to appreciate some of this new electronic technology, but I still don't understand this text thing.

I hope you all have a good winter holiday season.

Words of Wisdom:

"If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you."

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day."

"The difference between erotic and kinky is that one uses a feather, the other uses the whole chicken."

I will see you on the trail next year.

Chief

TRJC Member Thomas Grady Wins At MOROC

By Mark Schumacher



Although Thomas Grady is only thirteen years old he has several years of experience in driving Jeeps, both on trails and in competition. Thomas first drove a Jeep off road at the age of five, where he rolled the Jeep onto its side and spent several hours with his father Alan getting the Jeep back onto its wheels. His first few years of driving were at off road parks. As Thomas gained experience over the next few years he entered his first RROCK event at the age of nine at Hannibal Rocks in Hannibal, Missouri and he has competed in the series every year since. After several years of driving and with a couple years of sanctioned competition events behind him Alan felt Thomas had enough experience to drive at Two Rivers Jeep Club events. Since that time Thomas has driven the Jeep while Alan spots for him and guides others on the Atlas Trail. With the experience Thomas has gained he now also guides on Atlas beside his father and Walt Gilbert. Thomas has earned the respect of everyone that has seen him drive as although he is cautious there isn't an

obstacle that he won't attempt, he has better than average skills behind the wheel and the maturity of someone much older. In addition to driving Thomas works on, fixes, and fabricates parts for the Jeep, he started welding when he was six years old.

At the RROCK events it's a father and son team where Thomas drives and Alan spots. Driving the same Jeep that they bring to the TRJC events they compete in the Legends class which is the middle of three classes run in RROCK. Thomas has also competed in the Top Shop events at Hannibal. In 2008 Thomas finished 3rd overall in the championship with a 1st, two 2nds, and a 3rd place finish during the series. In 2009 Thomas finished 2nd overall in the championship again with a 1st, two 2nds, and a 3rd place finish during the seasons Midwest RROCK series.

In 2009 Alan and Thomas decided to compete in MOROC, an extreme off road racing series. MOROC is a series where Jeeps of different classes race side by side in either stadium style events or off road in woods, timber and flat ground. Several courses are run during a race, the times are kept and added together, and the competitor with the fastest overall time wins. MOROC is structured so that it holds two races, one on a Saturday and one on a Sunday of the same weekend which enables competitors to get more for their money and spend less time traveling. In order to compete in the series championships a competitor must make three of the races during the year.



Thomas's first race in MOROC was in August at a two day indoor stadium event in Hot Springs, Arkansas. On Saturday he finished 4th overall in the Pro Modified class with only 3 of the 6 races completed as he blew up the motor in his Jeep. Thomas earned enough respect on Saturday that a competitor, Tim Taylor from Texas, offered Thomas the use of his rig so that he could race on Sunday. The rig was a Campbell Enterprises, tube chassis, single seat, 500 horsepower LS7 powered race buggy. So on Sunday, with twenty minutes parking lot practice in the rig he stepped up to the Unlimited class. After six races that day Thomas placed 2nd overall, just behind Tim Taylor.



On September 3rd, 2009 Walt and I met Alan and Thomas in Seymour, Missouri for the last MOROC race of the season. Saturday was a great day for Thomas as he took 1st place in the Pro Modified class, six minutes ahead of the next Jeep in his class. This came after breaking a roll pin in the distributor during the fourth race and idling to the finish line. On Sunday the second race of the weekend was held but the day didn't turn out as well for Thomas. He placed 1st, 2nd, tied for 1st, 4th, and then broke a front driveshaft and took the full seven minute time. The driveshaft was replaced and on the next race he was fourteen seconds out of first, taking 2nd, after putting a two inch diameter stick through a sidewall on the front right tire and then through the hood of the Jeep. At that point Thomas was still looking good for the win but then during the last race he broke the ring gear in the rear end, again taking the seven minute maximum time and he ended up finishing 4th for the day's race in the Pro Modified class.

As Thomas had not completed three races in the same class for the year he was not eligible for points in the season championship that day.

Thomas is a great representative for The Two Rivers Jeep Club and a great example of the clubs family orientated theme. With some experience and safety being considered first and foremost, younger family members can be given the opportunity to drive in a structured and supervised environment. While offering trails of various levels of difficulty the club has many highly experienced members that are always willing to work with anyone to help them learn to drive safely on the trails. Thomas was given the opportunity supported by his family and other club members and he has taken what he has learned to a higher level. Alan has stated that Thomas would not be where he is today if it were not for the experience he has gained with the Two Rivers Jeep Club.

Besides Thomas other members of the Two Rivers Jeep Club compete in the RROCK series in Hannibal. Lisa and Jim Catt along with their team mate Dave Koenig compete in the RROCK, Top Shop and SHEROCK events. Lisa is a ball to watch and puts on a good show. Dave Bell has built a Jeep Cherokee and will compete in the ROROCK series in 2010.

I want to congratulate Thomas and Alan Grady for the season that they've had in 2009 and I hope that more club members will turn out to support everyone from the club that competes in competitive events. You only have to go thirty miles from Pittsfield to watch some of the finest competition in the country, that's at Hannibal Rocks in Hannibal, Missouri.

For those of you who don't know about Hannibal Rocks it is located five miles south of Hannibal on Route 61. It is owned and operated by Tom and Debbie Wombles, Tom is considered the father of the Two Rivers Jeep Club. Hannibal Rocks is an off road park where you pay to drive your Jeep on trails and in the rocks. Besides the RROCK series Hannibal Rocks has been the home to WEROCK, the Cooper All Stock Nationals, Top Shop, XXRA, MOROC and SHEROCK events. More and more club members showed up during the 2009 season just to watch and support TRJC members in competition. It's a fun and exciting family atmosphere. You can get more information about Hannibal Rocks at their web site, <http://www.rorp.com/>.



Two Rivers Jeep Club

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2010 Membership Enrollment Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Home _____

Phone Work _____

Phone Cell _____

e-mail(s) _____

Nickname(s) _____

Jeep(s) _____

Membership Type

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

OR

COMPLIMENTARY (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

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: ____/____/____

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FIRST CLASS MAIL