



# Two Rivers Tracker

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

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## News 2 Use

*Join us for our last three events of the season. As always, check the website for last minute changes.*

**Saturday, September 11** - Trail Ride: Meet at the VFW, 8 AM, for a trail ride leaving at 9. Myer's Mayhem will be run and there may be one other trail, to be determined. There will be no breakfast served at the VFW that morning.

**Saturday, September 25** - Annual General Meeting (AGM), Board Meeting, and Ma Earth Trail Ride: Meet at the VFW for breakfast at 7 AM. At 8 AM the Annual General Meeting, open to all members, will be held followed by a short Board meeting. Trails will leave at 10 AM. Trails to be run are TBD. Please try to attend and vote for the 2011 Board members. This is also an opportunity to voice your opinions and suggestions for improving your club.

**Saturday, October 23** – Meet at the VFW, 7 AM for breakfast, followed by a “Road Run” at 9 AM. Based on limited trail availability this time of year, this event may be a scenic drive through Pike County. Check the website for additional details closer to the date. At 6 PM there will be a Board meeting where the 2011 events will be planned. Members are always welcome for this planning meeting.

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## The Prez Sez

From Lee

We worked together and pulled it off again. Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make the *BLAST* a success and to those of you who supported the event by attending. We had a lot of on-site registrations which really helped. Many of those were folks who attended based on recommendations by club members.



Our wheeling year is coming to an end. We only have three more events left. An important event is the AGM where we elect 3 Board members for 2011 and select Officers for the year. Please, we need others to volunteer to serve on the Board. Some of our Board members have served for a number of years and it would be great to have new folks, with new ideas, on the Board. If you would like to put your name in for the election please let me know before the meeting.

# Blast 2010

by Lisa Catt

Another year has flown by and all is said and done. Even though economy still has not turned itself around, the attendance for the blast was outstanding. The weather was a little hotter than I would have liked and even though I sprayed myself with Off repellent, the mosquitoes seemed to have had a great time of feeding on my arms and legs while out on the trail. A few jeepers may have had their share of breakage and carnage, but all in all, everyone seemed to have had a great time.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all the dedicated attendees, as well as all of our members who have made these past two years a memorable time for me as event coordinator. Running and organizing an event takes a lot of time and patience. As I do have patience, I don't always have a lot of time to handle some of the preparation of putting these events together.

As you all know, I was not able to make it down to the event until late Friday night. As the event coordinator, I did feel very uneasy that I couldn't be there sooner, but my current job has brought on more duties and has been taking more of my time on a daily basis. With this change of added duties, this leaves less time for me to handle the preparation for the events prior to the events taking place.

During the past two years, I have handled the entire job of collecting and contacting vendors for donations, which we use in turn for our raffle prizes. My current duties at my job will not allow sufficient time for me to continue to handle this task. I would appreciate if several members would volunteer their time and take over this project for me. The more volunteers there are in handling this task, the better chances we have of collecting more donations. More donations mean more prizes to distribute for raffles. 😊

While at the Blast, two of members; Melody Watson and Becky Walston came to me and stated they would volunteer to help with this project. Two volunteers are great, but having a total of four members working together, would make this job much easier on everyone. If any additional members are willing and interested, please contact me by email: [riddle01@comcast.net](mailto:riddle01@comcast.net) or phone: 815-823-6653.

While being your event coordinator, I have been blessed with a group of TRJC members that have stepped up and are always willing to give their time to help me out. By volunteering their time, they have assisted me in keeping these events running like clockwork. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to them all. Without your support, these events would have been more stressful and not as much fun as they have been for me. "Thank you" just doesn't seem to be enough for all that you have done. Below is a list of members that I would like to give recognition to for their constant support.

**Pre-registration:** Kaye Iftner - Pike County Chamber, who handles all of our pre-registrations and makes sure that the confirmation packets are mailed out in a timely manner.

**Onsite registration crew;** Debbie Sorensen, Lily and Joie Vittetow, Jeff Shuck. Another great year of dedicated members who have stepped up to the plate and helped me out by handling this job with total control and diligent strength. Thank you all so much for being there and making everything run so smoothly. I am so grateful for the great job you have done in the past and hope that I can continue to have your support for several more events to come. 😊

**Tech Inspection crew:** Jeff Vickery, James Catt, Rick Miller, along with David Bell and Hayward Ball that stepped in when the tech team became short-handed and needed a few more hands on deck. A huge "Thank you" to Jeff Vickery for hauling and allowing us to use his trailer as our "inspection pit". I know the guys appreciate a place to congregate, especially out of the hot sun. You have made their tasks a little more comfortable with those fancy chairs!!!

**Rodeo crew:** who takes care of the ramp and tire toss. Jimmy Smith; Dave Bell, Nathan and Josh Miller.

**Onsite raffle coordinators;** Hayward and Kathleen Bell, a wonderful couple who have taken on this very large task of organizing our raffles and prizes during the event. Thank you for your support to me over these past two years. Both of you are gems for continually coming forward and dealing with this tedious job.

**Raffle ticket selling crew;** Kathleen Ball, Karen Dixon and Rick Miller. Thank you for taking on another task during these events. Our raffle crew brought in a total of \$2,771.00 in raffle money for this event. WOW!!! Great job gang.

**Promotional Items:** Rachael Baker, accompanied by her son Wyatt, who sold \$319.00 of TRJC promotional items during the event.

**Ice-cream entrepreneur:** Don Maxheimer was onsite making his world famous ice-cream and was able to collect \$705.00 that will be donated back to the community towards the Christmas Basket Fund in Pittsfield. Hopefully next year I get a chance to taste the **new lemon flavor ice cream** he brought on board. Might have had a chance to taste some if it weren't for Doug Watret hogging the last four cups of it!!!! Just kidding Doug. 😊 I know you would have offered me one cup of that "Lemon flavor" if you could????? Right. 😊

Speaking of Doug Watret....thank you for making sure we always have an adequate amount of trails to have fun on. To our trail guides for making each day fun filled and very eventful for our guests.

Lee Ator, our club President, who remains to be the best MC host we have ever had. Lee, since you do just a fantastic job of being our MC, the job is yours until you can find a replacement. 😊

Dave Christensen who has been a huge help in making sure all the information about our club events is posted correctly on our website. He dutifully handles our newsletters that are distributed on a bi-monthly basis, along with numerous other tasks that would probably take up an entire half page. Thanks Dave.!!!

To our landowners for once again allowing us to use their land for our events. Without use of their property, we would not be able to have fun jeeping.

Last, but definitely not least. A very special "thank you" to the American Legion crew who did another outstanding job at keeping our hungry bellies full of delicious food.

Another year of fun and meeting with new faces has been exhilarating and exhausting all at the same time. I just hope that I have made the events fun and enjoyable for everyone, as I always have a wonderful time hanging out with my Jeeping buddies and enjoy the wonderful trails we are so blessed to be able to roam on. See you all next year.

*Lisa*

*Event Coordinator*

# The Blast, Friday on Murphy's Law

by Mark Schumacher



The weather was great and we went to Murphy's Law on Friday. The Chief and Randy worked very hard to put on a good ride and then they had Gary to supervise. Sometime during the day Gary's real nickname came up, "Wrong way Williams", something that he had been able to keep hidden for years. There wasn't a lot of mud except where mud is expected but a couple of the hills stopped a few Jeeps and required some

strapping. Randy was always there set up and ready to winch or strap as needed. The rains the week before (seven inches) changed some of the trail, especially the creek. Gary had spent a lot of time with a tractor and bucket digging out the area in front of the waterfall as so much rock had been moved that the waterfall disappeared. In one place the Chief said we were running on about two feet of rock that was never there before. Things were pretty uneventful, one Jeep lost its fan belt two times and a new one was installed. Another Jeep had a flat tire and with everyone's help it was fixed pretty quickly. The Chief got into bottomless mud where there shouldn't have been any and he was thrown a strap. We even got a photo of Gary stealing parts from a Jeep that had been parked for more than fifteen minutes. He was quickly surrounded and encouraged to put the parts back. All in all a great day on the trail.



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## The Blast, Saturday on Atlas

by Mark Schumacher

Saturday was another great day and Mike, Julie, Chris and I chose to go to Atlas. It was my third trip to Atlas since I've been a member but the first time during an open event. I'd been there on a work day and a club trail ride and found the trail to be a lot of fun and exciting. My eyes were really opened by the end of the day and I know now why the trail is rated as a 4.5+.



I found out that during my first two times there Alan and Thomas had really taken it easy, sticking to the easier parts of the trail and watching out to ensure that all of us had a good time and did not suffer any damage. They had really taken care of all of us that had not been on an extreme trail and had made it an enjoyable ride for everyone without really putting us into harms way. At the Blast I learned that Alan, Thomas, Walt and Don believe that during the open events people sign up for Atlas because of its rating and they don't want to disappoint anyone so you are in it for the entire ride.

As soon as we hit the trail we had both front tires off of the ground as did Mike and then Mike landed off the trail with his front axle on a stump leaving him



hanging in the air. As calm as usual Dan simply told Mike to put it in reverse and hit the throttle and Mike was quickly back on the ground. I think that for most of the day the four of us had our eyes pretty wide as we found areas that were more extreme than the last.

After about an hour everyone was given the option of who they wanted to follow. Alan and Thomas were going to a new area that they called the Canyon and which they said was going to be pretty tough. Walt and Don would lead a second group to the normal "easier" parts of the trail. Four Jeeps decided to follow Walt and Don and by the end of the day we knew we had made a great decision.



We found some deep sticky mud/clay that seemed to eat a Jeep. In one "V" notch Chris and I found our Jeep laying on the drivers side with the windshield shaving mud and dirt from the side of the notch as we powered through. We watched Mike and Julie get through the area and with his

windshield down his roll cage shaved the dirt and it all fell into the Jeep on top of Mike. The Jeep behind Mike took the notch at the wrong angle and ended up on the passenger side. Walt directed the recovery and Mike helped with his winch. We then entered an area of mud that ate us all and we all had to winch through it.

At this point we were in the lunch area and were joined by Thomas, Mark (Overkill) and Dan. They were the only ones that made it through the Canyon area and they had left Alan behind to help everyone else. Alan told us all to take a lunch break and he would catch up as he was dealing with a couple of broken Jeeps and some that were stuck. After a very short lunch Alan called for Thomas, Mark and Dan to meet him at one of the exits and told them to bring a hundred foot strap as that was the only way they were going to get everyone else out of the Canyon.



Walt and Don led us further through the trail and the only major excitement we found was some more winching on hills and one of the Jeeps cut a sidewall on a rock on Rocky Road. By 2:45 PM all of us had had enough fun for the day and asked Walt to take us out, which he did after gently questioning our manhood. Walt and Don went back to help Alan and Thomas. Mike and I headed to the carwash and after about \$16.00 each we managed to get the mud out from under our Jeeps but the tops looked like we hadn't even gone to the wash. The two other Jeeps headed back to Chicago.

I understand that after lunch everyone was removed from the Canyon and went on to further carnage on the trail. I think that there were a couple of Jeeps on their sides and one on its top and a lot of winching done that afternoon. I know that Alan, Thomas, Walt, Don, Mark and Dan were about an hour late to dinner and all were smiling.

If I learned anything that day it's that unless you know what you are doing and have a lot of experience an open event is not the time to decide that you'd like to try a 4.5+ rated trail. If you do you should be prepared for body damage and ready to work you rear end off. Thanks to Alan, Thomas, Walt and Don we had a very exciting and excellent day on Atlas and want to thank them for taking such good care of us. Mark and Dan were there for us also as usual.



**More photos of Murphy's and Atlas are online at [www.trjc.com](http://www.trjc.com).**

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**We received this email from new members, Jeff and Joan.....**

Dave,  
Joan and I made it down there and we even made it back with not too much damage. We spent the day on Gary (Murphy's) land. He is quite the character. We really enjoyed talking with him. We met Doug and his wife, Brenda and her significant other, Shawn, Andy, Paul and his wife, and several others that I have already forgotten their names. Everyone was easy to talk to and a lot of fun. We wound up meeting for dinner at the Mexican place and had some good times there as well. Your recommendation for the hotel was spot on. The place was spotless and in the perfect location. If you share e-mails or newsletters with the others, please let them know what a great time we had and really appreciated everyone being so friendly and helpful. I haven't had that much fun in years. I am sure you will be seeing a lot more us in the future.

Sincerely, Jeff & Joan Cuppy

**Jeff and Joan took a number of great videos available here:**

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=two+rivers+jeep+club+saturday+august+21st+2010+&aq=f](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=two+rivers+jeep+club+saturday+august+21st+2010+&aq=f)

# Trail of Life

By Chief

I really think God must like Jeeps. That would be the only reason I can think of as to why in the midst of one of the warmest summers we have experienced in recent years we had a weekend of nearly perfect "Jeepin" weather. It was warm, but not that stifling heat we have sometimes experienced in August. It also wasn't quite as muddy as it was in May for the Safari which made for nearly perfect conditions for "Jeepin". Just the right mixture and texture of mud to make it interesting but not overwhelming.



We only ran Murphy's Law on Friday as no one except Jim Smith signed up for Saturday. He was very disappointed but was promised he could go with us next time we ran the trail. We had a full crew for Friday including some of Murphy's favorite family members from Missouri and Clint and his young daughter Katie in their Toyota Land Cruiser. Katie was not always fond of where the trail led. You could tell when she was not excited about the route when you could hear her screams or see her standing along side the trail watching the Jeeps go by. By the end of the day, she began to get into the off-roading scheme of things and I think began to actually enjoy it.

One of the most unbelievable things which we experienced was the creek-bed alterations produced by Mother Nature and the massive amount of rain she dumped with the numerous deluges of the summer. I first thought Murph had done one of his famous trail tricks and had taken his John Deere and moved some rock around. Then when I began to realize how much rock had been moved, I knew it was way to much work for Murph, even with his air-conditioned cab and his 500 amp stereo blasting his favorite Hip Hop Rap music. There were places where we were driving on two or three feet of rock where before there was no rock at all. Where did it all come from? The Waterfall had filled in and Murph did move some of that rock, but the face of the falls were completely changed. It was nearly like driving a new trail in some places.

On Saturday I decided I would enjoy my day off, and decided to sign up for the 12 hour trail to get in some extra practice. I have been so busy this season I have not been able to get off road as much as usual. So anyway, I heard about this trail where you could stay out way past dark. Well, I didn't get to stay out after dark, but Peej and his crew did show me a good time. I managed to knock off my passenger side mirror which I had originally removed during the Safari and repaired with some JB Weld but I did not notice it was gone for a while and have no idea where I lost it. It's funny, you don't use your mirrors near as often when you are tail-gunner as you do as the leader. If any of you happen to be on New Salem and see a side mirror laying along the edge of the corn field, or by one of the many trees you maneuver around, it might be mine. I hate to write and run, but I am being called out and I need to go.

See Ya on the Trail

*Chief*

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



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