



# Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 13 Issue 6

December 2010

## The Prez Sez

From Lee



For some of you, this newsletter will have the infamous fluorescent sticker on the front indicating this is your last newsletter as you have not yet renewed membership for 2011. Please consider this a gentle reminder that if you still enjoy 4 wheeling, you might want to renew your membership. We are about the only place in the Midwest where we have a wide variety of trails and a great group of folks to go wheeling with. Remember also that if you renew, you get your renewal dues back on either the Safari or Blast with the member discount. And if you attend both events, you wind up saving \$60 or more. Our directories will be printed in about 4 weeks so if you want to renew and have your name listed, please fill out the form enclosed in this newsletter and return it no later than January 20. This will be another year of 4 wheeling fun and the more the merrier!

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## Let the Fun Begin!

In less than a month our wheelin' season starts! We've got many events planned in the next couple months.

**Trail Builders: February 5 and 19, March 5 and 19.** Breakfast at the VFW will start at about 7 AM and the trails will leave at 9 AM. If you've never been on one of these, please show up. More fun than work typically occurs. This is also a great way for new members to become acquainted with the club. Check the web site for trails to be run and any last minute updates as this early in the year plans may change due to bad weather. If you have any questions about the trail builders, email us or call the club phone.

**Kickoff Dinner: February 19.** The day will start with a Board meeting at 7:30 AM in the VFW. Breakfast will be served. The trail builder will leave at 9 AM. At 6 PM we'll meet at the VFW again for the catered kickoff dinner, distribution of directories and an evening of talking about Jeeps and wheeling. You **must** RSVP if you plan on attending so we will have sufficient food. Email Jeff ([trjceff@yahoo.com](mailto:trjceff@yahoo.com)) or call the club phone (866-483-3982) no later than Wednesday, February 16.

**Safari registration open March 1:** During the first week of March you should receive your registration packets in the mail. Members get a \$60 discount. This year's event is going to be great – our event coordinators Lilly and Kelly have already started to acquire door prizes and have already landed a couple winches, one for the Safari and one for the Blast. If you know of non-members that would like to attend the Safari, please tell them about the event and send them to our website, [www.trjc.com](http://www.trjc.com) for more information and registration forms.

# The 2011 Safari and Blast Planning is Well Underway!

Lilly Vittetow

For those who do not know me, my name is Lilly. I've been a member of TRJC for about 5 years now. Of those, I have been working the registration at the Safari and Blast events for 4 years. When Mark, Joie and I attended our first big event with TRJC we vowed that we would not miss another one and we haven't! We always have a great time and have met some great friends. This year (hopefully) I will be bringing my own Jeep and trying to keep up with the "big" rigs! I think I did okay on Atlas for the last run of 2010 ..... or at least they didn't kick me off! Kelly has coordinated the events in the past, so most members should know her and how nuts she can be on the trails! Our planning is already under way for this year's Safari & Blast events. Kelly & I are excited about working with all of the great people and our sponsors that it takes to pull this off.

Anyway, I just wanted keep everyone updated a bit as to what is happening. Kelly is working on getting some art work done for this year's shirts. We have sent out letters to all of our sponsors and potential new sponsors for donations already. We will be starting to make follow up phone calls on those soon. So far I'm pretty excited about the donations coming in and hopefully will have more! So far we have heard from Superlift, Summit, 4 Wheel Drive Hardware, Holly Performance and Predator 4WD! We are working hard to make sure that these events continue to be the best in our area. We are still looking for volunteers, so if you may be interested, please email at [Lillysvintage@gmail.com](mailto:Lillysvintage@gmail.com) or call me. The registration forms will be in the mail boxes before you know it. Be sure to get them back in and make motel reservations! See you in May!!!

**Update: Thanks to 4 Wheel Drive Hardware we now have TWO winches, one for each event....8000 lb SmittyBilts. The Safari and Blast are going to rock this year!**

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## Trail of Life

By Chief

As I write this, it is New Year's Day. 2010 is gone, the first decade of the new millennium is complete and for some reason, I really do not feel that much older. 2010 was a year of activity and spending money. Some of it was mine, but most of it was other people's money. I really do that the best, spend other peoples money, but it is all for the betterment of the service we can provide for our community. I know this doesn't have anything to do about Jeeping but in my off season, it's a little tough to come up with Jeeping stuff. We haven't had enough snow to write about any dramatic rescues or other acts of heroism. Let me just give you a quick rundown on what we have done this year at HFPD to take up some space before I drop the big bomb.



We had a 1995 Chevy Suburban we purchased new. It, along with its sister Rescue truck, were purchased together. They both were mechanical nightmares. We got rid of the Rescue in 2007 but thought we could nurse the suburban along. Wrong!! During one of the regular maintenance checks it was found to have a coolant leak, possibly a head gasket, cracked head or block. All with only 25,000 miles. This could be costly so we decided to put it on the block. Sell it as is. Thus began the cycle of selling. We got \$2,500 out of the Suburban and were able to replace it with a 2010 Ram 3500 Cummins Mega Cab. Sweet. A slide tray in the bed, a topper and it works and runs great.

We had a 1999 Polaris 425 ATV we wanted to replace with a side by side style to give us more versatility and safer operation. John Deere stepped up with an offer I could not refuse (minus the horse's head in my bed) and we were able to sell the Polaris and purchase a Gator 620I with an enclosed cab. My son-in-law is a fabricator so we got together and designed and built a slide in unit with a water tank and pump and a stretcher carrier for those hard to get at emergency locations. We already saved the City of Decatur when they had a timber fire on the west side of town they could not get to with their equipment. (Might be a slight exaggeration, but our help was much appreciated.)

To make a really neat long story short, we also sold our 2001 fire engine to a town in Saskatchewan Canada. Talk about how things come together. This was a really a highlight of my career. The Town of Saltcoats and the surrounding Rural Municipality need to replace a 1950 model engine. They run a 1978 engine as the first out engine. There is a long and intricate story as to how they found out we had an engine to sell which I will be glad to share with you some other time, or upon request, but it would take too much space to describe here. The average temperature range in the winter there is -30F to 0F. I know our former Engine 344 is cussing us. I have a video of the engine being loaded onto the flatbed truck to head to the Great White North and I am sure it is flipping me off with the deck gun. I am leaving tomorrow to go to New Orleans to pick up the replacement, a brand new 2010 Ferrara Custom Pumper. It will be pretty much a twin to our 2006 Engine 343.

We were also able to work a deal with Mine Safety Appliance Company on a new thermal imaging camera. We had planned on buying a demonstrator camera for a considerable discount. While we were making the deal, the camera we were buying was sold. Bummer! Nope not this time. They offered a brand new camera for the same price. It really does pay to get up and attend the church of your choice Sunday mornings.

All of the news and new equipment of HFPD is viewable on our website at [www.harristownfpd.org](http://www.harristownfpd.org). It is being redesigned to bring us up to date, so it is not complete yet. Bear with us for a little while. Now the Bomb!! The Chief's Buggy and Murphy's Blue Bomber have been retired and replaced. It was tough to say good bye to the faithful steeds, but Murph and I wanted to start the new decade fresh. All that Jeep carnage Murphy's Law produces finally paid off. We were able to come up with enough parts for two complete TJs. More on this development in later issues.

Happy New Year, We are looking forward to the 2011 season.

Hope to see you on the trail.....*Chief*

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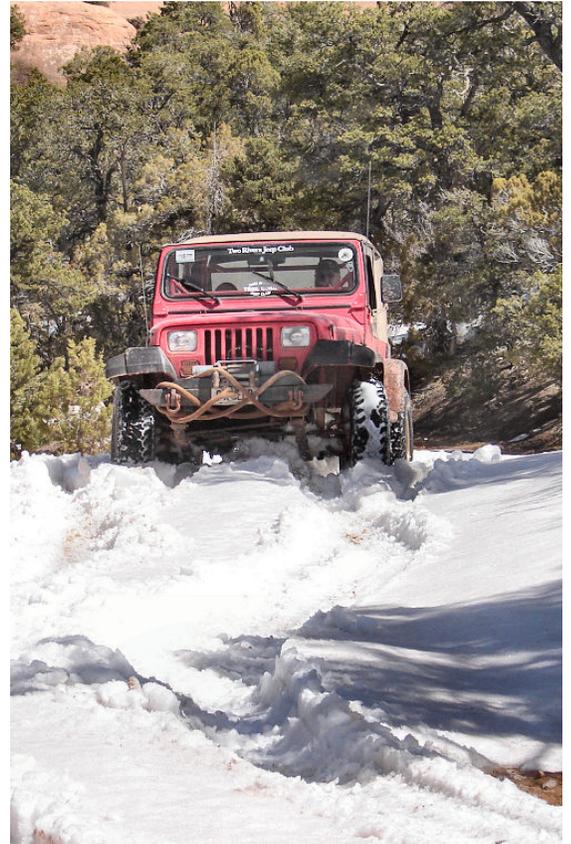
## Random Ruminations

By Charlie

What have you been up to this winter? I've spent a lot of time on the InterWebs, as in too much, bein' as I'm a R.O.F. (Retired Ol' F...you get the idea). It seems that most of my computer time ends up on Jeep sites of one kind or another, especially on U-Tube. Many videos are done by newbies that have no idea of what's safe or appropriate- at least I can turn the sound off for the so called music when it gets offensive. It seems that such things as riding with feet out the door, hands clinging to the roll bar, stepping over/straddling active winch cable (ouch, ouch!!), etc. are done out of ignorance or just to be cool. When such potentially unsafe activities are pointed out, they get all butt hurt and whiney.

I'm looking forward to another trip to Moab, providing fuel prices don't go outrageous like is predicted. Yeah, I know you can't take it with you, but I want to keep enough to back to spoil the Grandkid, too. I've been checking out trails to see which ones to avoid even if the guide says "piece of cake". I like TrailDamage.com, Trails section- they have several hundred trails covered all over the West, but mostly Colorado and Utah with a lot of the Moab area trails covered with pictures and some with videos. 4x4Now.com has some fair coverage, but is a bit unrealistic in their trail ratings.

The TRJC Post Easter Jeep Safari of 2010 was a good trip and we got lucky in spite of fighting a headwind all the way to Denver. I-70 was open intermittently over the Rockies and thru the Eisenhower Tunnel due to snow related problems- slick STEEP roads and blinding snow. We hit it just right and sail, er, slogged our way over like we knew what we were doing. It was a learning experience for me. The air is so thin that the engine loses power- big time! My V-8 powered Dodge pulling a trailered Jeep was only able to turn 3200 rpm in low gear with my foot flat on the floor going up from either direction.



Once in Moab, Mark had found a really nice motel with plenty of parking for our truck/trailers that was only a short hop from Camp Dave. Ah, yes- Dave Christensen, TRJC and Red Rock 4 Wheeler extraordinaire'. Trail Guide, lover of fine libations, and all around sneaky and devious person! If he says "piece of cake" or "no problem", watch out! For example: After running Kane Creek Trail, we were left with most of an afternoon. He said we're close to Flat Iron Mesa Trail; we could run the last half of it backwards and it's only rated a 5 out of 10. The question was raised-"any shelf trail?" "Just a little bit- Piece of cake." We shoulda gone to town right then. Dave entertained us by getting lost/bewildered/took the scenic route and finding the trail. (Actually, a good piece of navigation to head out thru the scrub brush where one trail looks like another to join a trail that has very few distinguishing characteristics... but don't tell him I said that.)

The first obstacle was The Intimidator- I think that's already been discussed in another newsletter. Suffice it to say I STILL have bad dreams about that one. We only missed one or two of the named tough obstacles on the trail and did all the others backward. After get back home and I'm trying to sort out where I've been, I find a site that rates the Flat Iron as a 5 normally, but as 8 of 10 (and there ain't no tens!!) when run backwards! Oh yeah, the half day "easy run" for our last day of wheelin' turned into most of a day with getting stuck in snow and a spring repair with one leaf missing (it was found) that started on Onion Creek (yup, it stinks!).

One of the "bright" ideas I had was to start a TRJC Jeeper of the Year type of thing, but it wouldn't work. When I got to thinking about it, I realized that there are just too many ladies and gents that do much more than their fair share to keep the club running smoothly. What most people don't realize is that there are a lot of people that aren't in the limelight working away behind the scenes to keep us on track. Some of them don't even feel like they've done anything special. I won't name anyone 'cause I'd leave out somebody for sure, so Land Owners, Trail Guides, Board Members, Committee members, and Trail Builders, pat yourselves on the back; you are greatly appreciated!

It's going to be interesting to see how much trail damage has been done this winter. Our first couple of trail builders may be snow runs- I'll bet that's fun on Atlas! Snow will make any of our trails challenging; some more so than others. To those of you that have never been on a trail builder- you don't know what you're missing! Generally, there isn't that much to do (except after ice storms), so it's a relaxing time with friends and a good chance to get acquainted with new people in a laid back atmosphere.



Several of us went up to Mendon to Karl's Korner back in Nov. We were joined by some Camp Point Jeepers and a good time was had by all. What an understatement! When I asked him how muddy it was, he said "Oh, not bad." I still have dirt clods stuck to the inside of the back window. As usual, Karl provided entertainment with Ol' Blue- especially when his steering wheel self destructed. The rim detached itself from the spokes and Karl didn't think he could steer it that way. I saved the day (strike up redneck music here- no-no, not banjos!) and pulled out the ubiquitous duct tape. In no time at all, we had the steering wheel better than it was (not much!) so he could get it back to the shop. Karl showed his appreciation by hitting a gully ("I didn't realize it was there. Really") and making a one spoker out of a perfectly good three spoker. More duct tape- I shoulda brought the Gorilla tape- and I followed him back to the shop. Now he's got a new steering wheel with some shiny spokes on it. Shiny is good. It's a wonder that Amy lets him out of the house alone...

Karl has a relatively short technical trail that is challenging but doable for stock and mildly built Jeeps. It's a great place to take a less experienced driver to help them develop technique and to build confidence under the supervision of some one more experienced.

I'm still amazed at the places a stock or lightly modified Jeep can go. I remember being told by two experienced trail guides for the Moab area that every trail could be done by a driver with a good spotter on 33's with a locker. The real problem comes in when "further progress is not possible/prudent." That's when the winch comes into play and how to use it safely. We're going to have a good time at the Recovery Course on June 4, so please plan to attend. I promise you that it will be fun, you will learn something, and it will be worth it. On the other hand, if you want to keep your Jeep clean and dry, you'd probably ought to stay home.

I need to wrap this up and get to the next job- I've got to put a rear end in a recliner. **Happy New Year!!**

## 2011 Board Members and Officers

### Board Members

President	Lee Ator		217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750
Secretary	Jeff Sorensen	trjcjeff@yahoo.com	815-790-5433
Treasurer	Hamer Tate		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>	Kelly Knoll	cjflyrod25@aol.com	815-978-9802
	Lilly Vittetow	lillysvintage@gmail.com	815-977-7365
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Watret	watret4@royell.org	217-652-9587
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 December 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: February 28**

# TRJC 2011 Event Calendar

Date		TRJC Event	Location	Time
Feb	5	First Trail Builder of the Season (Weather permitting)	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
	19	Board Meeting #1		7:30 AM
		Trail Builder		8:00 AM
		Kickoff Dinner (catered) & Directory Distribution		6:00 PM
Mar	1	Registration opens for the 10th Illini 4x4 Safari	VFW, Pittsfield	
	5	Trail Builder		8:00 AM
	19	Trail Builder		8:00 AM
April	2	Board Meeting #2	VFW, Pittsfield	7:30 AM
		Member Trail Ride		8:00 AM
		Member Appreciation Dinner (catered)		6:00 PM
	16	Trail Builder		8:00 AM
	30	Board Meeting #3		7:30 AM
		Trail Builder		8:00 AM
May	7	Quincy Dogwood Parade - TRJC Invited	Quincy	TBD (Jen Bell)
	12	Registration opens for the 4x4 <i>BLAST</i>		
	12 - 14	10th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari (open to public)	American Legion, Pittsfield	4 PM Thu
Jun	4	Vehicle Recovery Course - <i>On the trail</i>	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
	18	Board Meeting #4		7:30 AM
		Father's Day Run & Catered Dinner		8:00 AM
Jul	9	4th of July Run	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
	23	Trail Builder		8:00 AM
Aug	4 - 6	13th Annual 4x4 Blast (open to public)	American Legion, Pittsfield	4 PM Thu
	20	Ladies Day on the Trail and a Night at the Movies	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Sep	10	Trail ride	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
	24	Annual General Meeting and Board Elections		8:00 AM
		Board Meeting #5		9:30 AM
		Ma Earth Run		10:00 AM
Oct	22	Road Run	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
		Board Meeting #6 (2012 Event Planning)		6:00 PM
May 2012	10 - 12	<b>2012 - 11th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari</b>		
Aug 2012	2 - 4	<b>2012 - 14th Annual 4x4 Blast</b>		



# 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)

## 2011 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

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 **January 20** 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



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