



Two Rivers Tracker

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

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Upcoming Events

September 3rd – Pittsfield Fall Festival Parade

Meet at the high school parking lot at 10:30 AM. Bring a lunch and go wheeling at Murphy's place after the parade. (Yes, Murphy knows we're coming over.) Please call or email Jen Bell 217-779-2391 belljen@comcast.net if you are planning on participating.

September 10th – Trail Ride

Meet at the VFW at 7 AM for breakfast. Trails will leave at 9 AM. Trails will be determined based on availability and weather. Check the web page for details.

September 24th – Annual General Meeting, Board Elections, Ma Earth Run

Breakfast will start at 7. The Annual Meeting will start at 8. Board elections will be held at 9. A short Board meeting will follow. We leave for the trails about 10. This meeting is one way you can voice your opinions and suggestions. Please try to attend. Also, there are three Board positions up for election. We can always use, and need, new people on the Board. If you want to put your name in the hat for a Board position please contact Jeff Sorensen by September 17!

October 1st – Barry Apple Festival Parade

More info TBA. Keep an eye on the club website & Facebook page.

October 22nd – Back Country Road Drive and 2012 Planning Meeting

Meet at the VFW at 7 AM for breakfast. The run will leave at 9. Since trails are closed for hunting season this will be a scenic back country drive. 6 PM, at the VFW, a meeting will be held to plan for the 2012 club season. Members are encouraged to attend as a few changes to our events are proposed. This is our last scheduled event for the year.

The Prez Sez

From Lee Ator

Thanks to the hard work from our club members we had a very successful Blast and Safari this year. Both events were successful from an attendance and financial point of view and this year we saw a good rise in the Blast attendance. I'd like to thank all those who worked so hard to make this happen but especially Lilly and Kelly as chairs of the event and Kaye for all her efforts in registration. But we could not do any of this without the dedication of the Trail Guides, Helpers and Special Volunteers. Without your time and efforts this just would not happen. *Thank you...all of you!*



There's more to the story than just having fun on the trails at these events. These two events, based at the American Legion, bring in substantial yearly income to the Legion. Our support, by having them host the event and cater the dinners and breakfasts, helps keep the Pittsfield Legion alive and well. It also shows our thanks and support for those who have served our country and made sacrifices for us.

Once again, thanks to the generosity of the attendees, we collected almost \$4,000 in donations for the Blast raffle prizes and ice cream sales.....and again thanks to Lilly for an awesome job dealing with the vendors and obtaining some great prizes. As always, raffle proceeds get donated to worthy causes in the community and we'll let you know in the next newsletter the recipients of this year's donations.

Another thanks goes to Jen who has, and is, organizing a number of special events. She has some new ideas for fun and ways to show folks what our hobby is all about. These special events are a lot of work to organize so please try to attend those that you can. They're different from what we've done in the past and a heck of a lot of fun!

Come on folks! Come to the Board meetings, the Annual meeting and/or the Planning meeting and let us know your thoughts about where you'd like to see the club go in the next few years. This is YOUR club and we need your input – especially on this next topic.

A proposal has been made to move the Safari to Mid-June. The goal would be to hold the Safari when school is out to make it easier for people with kids. This decision needs a lot of thought. On the plus side we may get more attendance at the Safari, although school is out for Blast and the attendance of kids at that event is about the same as the Safari. On the negative side, the new date would mean that the popular Father's Day run could no longer be held and that instead of three months between the Safari and Blast there would only be two. That could impact the attendance of the Blast. There are other issues we will explore such as reaction from landowners, trail guides, helpers, etc. But we need to understand the opinions and needs of the club members.

Please email our public relations person, davec@millenicom.com with your thoughts on moving the event to June or call the club phone, 866-483-3982 and voice your opinion on the date change. We need this information **SOON** so we can set dates for the future. Please try to respond within a week of receiving this newsletter. If you don't reply, we'll assume you don't care and either date is OK with you.

4x4 Blast Report

By Lilly Vittetow

Well the 2011 4x4 Blast has come and gone and the planning for 2012 is now on its way! This year the morning showers were trying to scare people away. If it scared you away, you missed out on some great wheeling! The rain actually helped with traction going up some of those hill climbs!

Our first day we decided to run on the Mystery Trail with Mark & Mark. Now mind you this is a 4+ trail and I've only had my own Jeep for about a year and a half but this is my first Blast in it. I did use my winch a few times, challenged myself and my Jeep with new obstacles that had me nervous, kept at least 3 tires on the ground all day (which is more than I can say for a couple of friends) and listened to my trail guides who taught me a few tips that helped a lot! It turned out to be a great day on the trails.





Our second day my hubby and friends talked me into Atlas which I have been on before and knew that some of those down hills were going to be a free for all after the morning showers. Again, the morning showers did help with uphill traction but not going down. The first downhill was the cause of some choice words to

start our day! After a few more ups and down, I was getting a little more confident but not comfortable by any means. One of the down hills, my Jeep learned a new trick! It learned how to go up on one (driver's front) tire. I thought for sure that I was in for a cart wheel roll and it was going to hurt. Luckily there was a small tree that decided to touch my roll cage and put my Jeep back down on all 4! After a small breathing break I did make the next hill climb that the Jeeps in front of me, including the trail guide, didn't make!!! The pictures and videos that we did take can be found at



<https://www.facebook.com/OverKillOffRoad> under photos and videos. There are also pictures from the Auctions and raffles on the club's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Two-Rivers-Jeep-Club/131259746896592?sk=wall> .



A final note, I would love to thank and acknowledge all of the volunteers for their help and time! Deb, Joie and Jen for registration! Mark, Rick, Nathan, Josh and Jim worked the Jeep tech! Jim and Dave took care of the rodeo! Our awesome MC's, Lee and OR, thank you!! Jen and Joe for helping with the local raffle donations! Kathleen & Heyward for overseeing the raffles & auctions! Kelly for taking care of the t-shirts! Thanks Doug and all of the fabulous trail guides for guiding people onto the right trails during registration and then making sure they had a great

day on the trails! And of course all of the land owners, who without we wouldn't be able to have these events. And of course our ghost behind the scenes that does a lot of work, Dave! Thank you, thank you, and thank you!!!



See you in 2012 and bring your friends!!

Trail of Life

By Chief



Before I discuss the '11 Blast, I thought would give an update on what has become my most inquired about subject. At nearly every TRJC event I attend, someone comes to me and asks about my current Raccoon situation or relates a situation they have with the Masked Marauders. For all practical purposes, the truce is holding. Yes, my garbage can still gets dumped once in a while, but full scale hostilities have pretty much ceased. I am not proud of this, but I still smile every time I see one who was a little slow crossing the roadway. I always wonder if he was one of raiders who for nearly two years held me hostage in my own home. I will say, I was able to discover why the furry little critters seemed so cunning, clever and smart. I placed one of those camera traps they use on "MONSTER QUEST" in an attempt to photograph Big Foot in hopes of getting a picture of the Devilish Demons doing their dirty work. I have attached a photo of the results. I am sure I captured the ringleader of the pack in this photo. Needless to say you can see by his facial features he is of superior intelligence and rather attractive for a Raccoon. No wonder they seemed almost human in their tactics and cunning. I think the picture explains it all. For you newer members who are unfamiliar with the "Raccoon War Saga", check back issues in the [Tracker](#) archives and the blow by blow description is there.

I also would like to say "You're welcome" to the farmers, garden growers and lawn groomers in Pike County as our presence ensured they finally received some badly needed rain. Thursday evening during signup I was advising everyone it would be dry and dusty on the trail and meaty tires and lockers would not be necessary. I guess that is why I am not a weatherman. Following the Thursday morning and Friday night rain, we had no shortage of mud on Murphy's Law.

Our signup went very well despite the fact Murphy did not sweeten the pot as he did during the Safari. As some of you might remember during the Safari, Murphy graciously offered a \$100 signup bonus for the first ten people to sign up for the trail. We actually filled up both days of the Safari, but Murphy decided it would not be fair to the others who signed up later and being the champion of fair play that he is, he withdrew the offer. Murphy decided for the Blast the Trail should stand on its own merits. We had nine Jeeps on Friday and fourteen Jeeps on Saturday.

Considering the unexpected mud on Friday, things went well. We actually ran every foot of trail and finished right on time. Murphy, Randy and I have spent countless hours calculating how much trail we need to fill a complete day. It involved a lot of measuring and intense mathematical formulas. Anyway, we had a really good group who worked well together getting everyone through the tough spots. The new TJ version of the Chief's Buggy did very well even with the open diffs. The BDS suspension is everything I had hoped it would be. Murph's new TJ is most definitely a point and go vehicle. He just smiles and now goes places on the trail he didn't even know were there. He even got to be the puller on the Rugged Ravine as I was the "pullee", along with some others.

We only had a few problem drivers, (Devin) but once Tammy started driving in the afternoon, things went a lot smoother. In reality, I was probably having the most problems in my selfless attempt to clean all the mud off the trail for the following Jeeps. Randy "Ghost Rider" Newport was sidelined for a few hours with a broken axle shaft compliments of his fearless, hard-drivin' daughter Michaela but was repaired and back on the trail by the end of the day, ready for Saturday.

Saturday's mud was enhanced by a heavier rain during the night and the mud most definitely was making things more difficult. We even managed to put to practice some of the knowledge we gained during the vehicle recovery class as a Cherokee managed to lay itself over on the very first hill of the day. It was kind of a "How did that just happen moment." I saw it but I am not sure how it happened. The driver had his

mother with him and they were very patient while we got it upright. There was not even a dent or scratch on the vehicle. Trent Knowles from the Dutch Creek Trail ran with us on Saturday and became a victim of Murphy's Law with broken tie rod. A trip to the parts store in Pittsfield for the wrong part and then a trip to Jacksonville for the right part got him going by the end of the day. Because of the muddy conditions and larger number of Jeeps we did not cover as much trail, but we kept moving pretty well. Murphy's Law's greatest fan, Karl Anderson was with us on Saturday with his wife's JK. I could not believe he left Ole Blue on the trailer. You could see the disappointment in its taillights as we drove by.

Finally, one of the most important things, the food. Wow! I always tell the Legion people I got bored with Jeepin' a long time ago, I just come for the food. That is not completely true, but I love the food. Thanks for feeding us so well.

We had a good weekend on Murphy's Law. I hope everyone who attended did also and will come back and bring a friend. I am proud of the events we put on and would like to share the experience with others. And finally for real, **Thank You Landowners**. Especially for Gary and Virginia Williams and Victor Boston who allow us to "Play" on their land.

Hope to See Ya on the Trail, *Chief*

Words of Wisdom: Just remember if the world didn't suck, we would all fall off..... and, When everything is coming your way, you are in the wrong lane.

Our Condolences to TRJC founder Tom Wombles and his family concerning the passing of his mother, Bonnie Wombles who passed away July 4th, 2011.

Quincy Parade and Mall

By Special Event Coordinator Jen Bell

First, a HUGE delayed thank you to all 17 Jeeps that participated in the Quincy Dogwood Parade! We had more Jeeps than the Corvette Club had Corvettes in the parade. We had a great time at the parade and the BBQ afterwards.



Why would you put Jeeps inside a mall? To promote TRJC!! It is an all too sad reality, people in Quincy own Jeeps and do not know that we exist. Multiple people would approach a club member and say "I own a Jeep (or three)" and had no idea there was a Jeep club in the

area. Not many women would receive a positive response by asking a predominately male group to sit in the mall for two full days. Thankfully, I had eight men willing to do so! I owe a huge THANK YOU to: Dave Bell, Dave Bowen, Eric Barnes, Mark Kinne, Mark Tweedell, Matt Springer, Murphy (Gary Williams), and Rocky Humke

Safari and Blast Sponsors

Thanks to all the sponsors who donated for this year's events. Without their donations we'd never have been able to donate over \$9,000 back to the community. Please try to patronize their businesses and make it a point to thank them for their generosity.

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Local Vendors

The following local vendors donated to our event. These are people you can thank personally. Next time you are in Pittsfield please do business with one of these vendors and thank them for their help. Local community support is critical for our successful events and we sincerely thank these folks for their help.

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