

Two Rivers Tracker

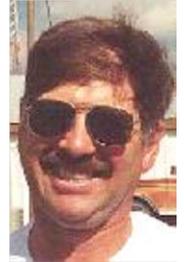
A publication of the Two Rivers Jeep Club, Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 15 Issue 6

December 2012

The Prez Sez

From Lee Ator



As we come to the end of the year I want to thank a few of those who helped make 2012 a great year for TRJC. I hope I don't miss anyone: Dave Christensen, Kaye Iftner, Lilly Vittetow, Jen Bell, Jeff Sorensen, Hamer Tate, Gary Williams, and all their helpers. And of course all the club members, trail guides, special events folks, landowners and others who attended our events and were so generous so we could help charities in Pike County (and had fun doing it)! **Thanks to all!**

Now let's shift gears. I've started a Jeeper's Christmas list:

On the 1st day of Christmas: a new winch.

On the 2nd day of Christmas: 2 new lockers (1 front 1 rear); and a new winch.

On the 3rd day of Christmas: 3 new tops (1 hard, 1 soft, 1 bikini); 2 new lockers (1 front 1 rear); and a new winch.

On the 4th day of Christmas: 4 big mud tires; 3 new tops (1 hard, 1 soft, 1 bikini); 2 new lockers (1 front 1 rear); and a new winch.

On the 5th day of Christmas: 5 bead lock rims; 4 big mud tires; 3 new tops (1 hard, 1 soft, 1 bikini); 2 new lockers (1 front 1 rear); and a new winch.

Well, you get the idea. Add to this list as per your needs and wants.

Shift gears again. Let us not forget the real reason for the season: the miracle birth of a child to a poor young Hebrew woman over 2000 years ago. May that child's message from God of peace, hope, and love be with us all in 2013.

P.S. Miracles do still happen. I wrote this on the computer and emailed it successfully to Dave. ☺

Reminder from our Club Secretary

Jeff Sorensen

We are less than two months from getting back on trails. We have received a lot of renewals but still have a lot missing. So please get them in the mail now. If we do not get them by January 10th, you will not be listed in the directory.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 2: Our first Trail Builder of the season. Meet at the VFW, 7:30-ish, for breakfast with trails leaving at 9 AM. **Weather may cause a cancellation so please check the web page first.**

Feb. 16: Board meeting, Trail Builder, and catered kick-off dinner. The Board meeting is at 7:30 AM at the VFW along with breakfast. Trails leave at 9 AM. At 6 PM we'll have our annual kick-off dinner which is a great way to meet new friends and members. Please check the web page for any updates.

Mar. 2 and 16: Trail Builder weekends. If you are a new member, consider attending one of these. They're great fun and a lot more wheeling often gets done than work. Heavy shoes or boots and gloves always come in handy. Any changes will be posted on the web page.

It's All About Family and Friends

By Lilly Vittetow, Safari and Blast Chairperson

Wow, this year has gone fast! As I look back over the year, I realize that I've learned a lot in planning the Safari & Blast events but I also have a lot more to learn. I also cannot believe all of the good friends that we've made through these events over the years! Our passion in Jeeps and off-roading is so much more than what the outside world knows. It's family quality time (most of the time). ☺ It's fun times with friends. It's forgetting about the daily grind. It's learning new techniques and how to fix things. And it's spending time in the great outdoors! I am amazed every time that we go Jeepin' and someone breaks down or needs help. There is no hesitation, everyone jumps in and helps in whatever way they can (even if it's staying out of the way or entertaining the kids). If the break is not fixable on the trail, others offer up seats to finish out the day then help to get the Jeep back to where it needs to go. Our community is a great example of what the world should be and I'm proud to be a part of that!

I do want to thank everyone that has volunteered their time and efforts not just to the events but to the club! It takes a lot of work, effort and time to keep it all together and we couldn't do it without everyone working together.

As the year is wrapping up we are already planning for next year's events and already contacting sponsors. I am trying very hard to expand that list and if anyone has suggestions, email me! I'll contact anyone! I do believe that we will be selling food on Thursday during registration and have a car wash on Saturday at the Safari next year to help out Pike County Fair Pageants for 2013 to raise money for the Queen's Scholarship.

I know times are tough for a lot of people right now but if we all start talking with other Jeepers now, maybe we can beat this year's numbers! Also, please remember our sponsors from this year when looking for upgrades or replacement parts. They are a big part of keeping these events going.

Mark, Joie and I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a peaceful Happy New Year! See you in 2013 on the trails!!



Club Run Withdrawals

By Karl Anderson

Anybody else having Club Run withdrawals? When those male deer start chasin' those female deer with less than honorable intentions, well, us TRJC members learn our place on the ol' totem pole. It's out with the Jeeps and in with the hunters. Can't really complain, I guess. The whitetail population definitely needs control. Bambi and her suicidal relatives have caused tens of thousands of dollars of damage to my big trucks and personal vehicles for years and I doubt I'm alone on their Kamikaze hit list.

But, COME ON!! How do they always seem to know when I've recently put a new bumper on my Peterbilt? Is there some sort of newsletter sent out from the truck accessory dealers to the wildlife community that only deer can read? Gotta be a conspiracy. They let me enjoy my new bumper for a couple weeks and then.... BAM!! Never fails. But recently I got a new insurance policy that has NO deductible for deer damage so now when I see 'em sneakin' towards the road from the woods I gun it and aim directly for their sorry butts. What can I say, I like shiny new bumpers.



I guess the biggest complaint I have about deer season is it's soooo dang long! We're off the trails for 4 months! Seriously?? Who in the world needs 4 months to find a mate? Besides, it ain't like the 12 point buck chasin' the doe in heat is lookin' for a long term relationship. I bet he never even calls her after mating season is over. I don't care how big your rack is, manners is manners. Have you ever wondered if the ones waiting on the side of the road ready to say "Good-bye cruel world!" maybe are the ones who struck out during the rut, the proper term for deer mating season. That makes absolutely no sense to me because when I was young and single many moons ago being in a rut didn't exactly mean you were overly successful with the ladies.



Oh well, as I sit here writing this we're about half way through deer season and gettin' ever closer to that first club run of the year in February. I don't know about you, but I can almost hear that beautiful sound of u-joints snapping and smell the addictive odor of overheated Jeep motors.

I hope everybody got to do at least a little Jeepin' since the last run. Around our place we try to get our fix whenever possible on the trails we've cut in the woods on our little 40 acre slice of heaven. On two recent Saturdays in November, we had small gatherings of friends and Jeeps that, as always, turned out to be as much fun as humanly possible without any negative marks on one's permanent record. Can't say as much for the Jeeps involved. Mirrors disappeared, axles snapped, u-joints met their maker and body damage of all sorts marked both runs. Not on our Jeep, mind you, cause Mama keeps me in line a little more nowadays with the nice TJ. But boy did I have fun watching everyone else rearrange sheet metal and suspension components. I actually still have one victim sitting in my shed that couldn't seem to keep its Boggers on their beads. Ever heard that expression, "Possession is 9/10ths of the law"? How soon does that go into effect?

I suppose it's hard to imagine having so much fun on such a small area, but we never fail to have a ball all day just cuttin' in and out of our ravine from one side to the other, through the creek and up and down the hills. I've often said my trail could be rated as a 1 or a 5, or anything in between, depending on whether you take a right or a left. And if we get much rain at all before one of our gatherings the trail becomes slicker than the inside of your left nostril during cold and flu season. The hills may not be as tall as those in Pike County, but 80 degree inclines are a challenge no matter how far it is to the top.



Hopefully you all will get to meet our local Jeepin' compadres this coming year since they all have expressed interest in joining the club. And hopefully it won't be quite as freakin' HOT as it was all last summer when they had promised me they were going to join but just couldn't get motivated to do so with the uncomfortable temps.

Until then, here's hoping everyone has a great Christmas season and an even better New Year!

Trail of Life

By Chief

Hello Gang! This is as you all know a down time for Jeep activity on TRJC trails so here are some filler stories until we can get back to what we love to do. Christmas is nearly here at the time of this writing. It is hard for me to get into the Christmas spirit with the temperatures we have had here at home and there is no snow in sight. I have been helped somewhat by an event my fire department has been a part of. This is the second year we have participated in a challenge which raises funds for the Salvation Army which is cleverly known as the Guns vs Hoses Bell Ringing Challenge.



The Challenge pits county law enforcement officers against the county fire service organizations. The Salvation Army serves the emergency services with a Canteen truck and countless other social programs in our area and we decided last year to help them raise money as a way to thank them for all they do. In two days of bell ringing at three locations last year we raised over \$10,000 with the fire service handily defeating deputies. We will finish the contest tomorrow and we are pretty confident we will prevail, however the sheriff may have a trick up his sleeve with a big money donor offering to match their take. We do have a plan to counter any moves they may attempt. I will let you all know what happens.

In 1996 I had to put down my faithful 13 year old Dalmatian, Chief, and it nearly killed me. All my firemen offered to get me another dog and I told them I just could not bear to deal with all that went with another dog at that time. Well, in October Mrs. Chief and I decided we would like to hear the pitter-patter of little feet around the house again and recognizing our advanced years, it would probably have to come in the form of a new dog. Not wanting to go through the challenge of starting with a new puppy, we began searching the shelters online for our new addition. After a brief search I located a three year old yellow lab at a shelter who needed special care as it was being treated for heart-worms. Something just seemed to tell me to stop looking and check out this little 88 pound bundle of joy. It was kind of like when I met Mrs. Chief, I just knew this was the one. To jump ahead for the sake of time, we adopted this beautiful yellow lab. He passed his final heart-worm check and then faced the hardest thing about the whole process and a requirement of the shelter adoption system, he was neutered. He took it really well and really blended into the family well. He has accepted the role of a "Fire Chief's" dog and quickly snaps to respond when the pager goes off. He runs to the door and looks back to see why I am so slow. He is a fast learner. I also think he will be a major asset in my continuing battle with those masked bandits of the Raccoon Wars. He has treed several and captured a couple of possums.

We named him Raylan after US Marshall Raylan Givens of "Justified" fame. Justified, the best TV drama in ages in my opinion, and true to his namesake, Raylan likes to play and sometimes it gets a little rough. Well, while we were playing a little tug of war with an old tree saver I have, he managed to pull it out of my hands and began the death shake. Now this is, once again an 88 pound dog with nothing but muscle and teeth. As he shook his head, he caught me on the right temple with his head and an instant mouse arose to the point I could see it as I looked to the right and I could not put my glasses on. Needless to say, my eye turned a beautiful shade of blue, black and purple. It stayed that way for two weeks. Raylan is getting spoiled as Mrs. Chief loves to go dog toy shopping. One of my daughters observed last week that he has gotten more toys than she ever did.

I pray you all will have Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I am anxious to be able to get back on the trail again. Until then, be safe and keep smiling.

Words of Wisdom: Tell me what you need and I'll tell you how to get along without it.
Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.

See Ya on the Trail, *Chief*

Charlie's Ramblin's

By Charlie Ater

I just got done mailing out the Landowner Appreciation Chamber Bucks. Several thoughts come to mind. That's a lot of envelopes to lick- talk about dry mouth... I'm just glad I didn't have to lick the stamps, too. The Landowner Appreciation is one of the things funded by your membership dues and is one of the biggest expenses the club has. I just wish that we could make it more- I know I sure get my money's worth running various trails.

How many of you carry some TRJC business cards and/or brochures with you? I've tagged a couple in a bank parking lot (I think they were expecting the worst when I pulled up alongside as they were counting their money...), several at gas stations, at a parts store, grocery store parking lot, etc. We should always be on the lookout for new members. Just point out the family aspect of our club if it's a grocery getter, or if there is a little mud on the tires (I bet there's a country song there...) They should hear about some of the more challenging trails. Get the word out- we are an active, involved, stable club that has real trails to run on.

Lora and I took "the Banana Boat" (Dammit, Karl, that ain't a fittin' name fer a purty yallar Jeep!) to the Anderosa on an impromptu wheeling trip where we were joined by a number of local wheelers. Karl has been doing his homework- look for an influx of new members this spring. The new suspension works well even though I didn't disconnect the sway bar. I don't remember names all that well, so I can't tell you who all was there (Andy Bauer showed up with his wife and Willy, his son- a cute kid that is into wheelin'!), but John's little red YJ on 40" tires was impressive! It sat lower than our LJs and proceeded to crawl the new "in and outs" that Karl had cut. Several others tried to do the same but couldn't do it well enough to get bragging rights. So he crawled them again! (SHOWOFF!) After some 'dogs and suds' we did a night run that had a bead popped and a stuck host. I tangled with a jumping tree- they aren't limited to Pike County!, with only minor damage. We cleaned up the "Boat" the next morning and dropped it off at Taboo Customs for some axle work.

If you've never done one of the events at the Anderosa, you really need to at least once. Karl only has room for a short trail, but he maximizes its use and it is fun! It's a good place to let someone new to wheelin' develop some confidence or to check out a mod. Thanks Karl! I take back everything I said about you- well, most of it...



It is Christmas time, so I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. See you next year on the trail!

2013 TRJC Calendar

All events are based in Pittsfield, unless otherwise noted.
Special events will be posted on the website and in the newsletter.

Trails leave from the VFW at the posted time.

Breakfast (and socialization) starts about 90 minutes earlier.

Date		TRJC Event	Time	Location
Feb	2	First Trail Builder of the Season (Weather permitting)	9:00 AM	VFW
	16	Board Meeting #1	7:30 AM	
		Trail Builder	9:00 AM	
		Kickoff Dinner (catered)	6:00 PM	
Mar	1	Registration opens for the Safari		VFW
	2	Trail Builder	9:00 AM	
	16	Trail Builder	9:00 AM	
	30	Board Meeting #2	7:30 AM	
		Member Trail Ride	9:00 AM	
		Member Appreciation Dinner (catered)	6:00 PM	
Apr	13	Trail Builder	9:00 AM	VFW
	27	Board Meeting #3	7:30 AM	
		Trail Builder	9:00 AM	
	26 - 28	Quincy Mall Jeep Display	TBD	
May	4	Quincy Dogwood Parade	TBD	TBD
	16	Registration opens for the 4x4 <i>BLAST</i>		
	16 - 18	12th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari (open to public)	4 PM Thu	American Legion
Jun	1	Vehicle Recovery Course - <i>On the trail</i>	8:00 AM	VFW
		Board Meeting #4	7:30 AM	
	15	Miller's TNT Farm Father's Day Run & Catered Dinner	9:00 AM	
Jul	13	4th of July Run	9:00 AM	VFW
	27	Trail Builder	9:00 AM	
Aug	1 - 3	15th Annual 4x4 Blast (open to public)	4 PM Thu	American Legion
	17	Members Run	9:00 AM	VFW
	31	Pittsfield Fall Festival Parade & Murphy's Last Call	TBD	TBD
Sep	14	Annual General Meeting and Board Elections	8:00 AM	VFW
		Board Meeting #5	9:00 AM	
		Ma Earth Run	10:00 AM	
Oct	12	Road Run	9:00 AM	VFW
		Board Meeting #6 (2014 Event Planning)	6:00 PM	
May 2014	15 - 17	2014 - 13th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari		
Aug 2014	7 - 9	2014 - 16th Annual 4x4 Blast		

2013 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	hltate51@gmail.com	217-833-2861
Board Members	Charlie Ater	c8r3@irtc.net	217-742-3275
	Dave Bell	taboocustoms@comcast.net	217-316-3039
	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
	Alan Grady	cgrady5600@sbcglobal.net	815-838-8611
	Bob Miller	miller5@adams.net	217-779-1462

Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & <i>BLAST</i>	Lilly Vittetow	lillysvintage@gmail.com	815-977-7365
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Watret	watret4@royell.org	217-652-9587
Special Events Coordinator	Jen Bell	belljen@comcast.net	217-7792391
Newsletter, Web	Dave Christensen	davecc@millenicom.com	630-886-6412

TRJC Web Page: <http://www.trjc.com/>

Club e-mail: 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 1st 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: January 15



Two Rivers Jeep Club

PO Box 47

Pittsfield IL 62363-0047

(630) 717-5337 or (866) 483-3982 email: trj1@trjc.com web: www.trjc.com

2013 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

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".

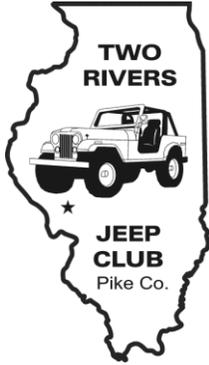
Applicant's Signature _____

Date Signed _____

Office Use Only

Amount Received _____ Cash or Check # _____ Date Received: ____/____/____

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL