

Two Rivers Tracker

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

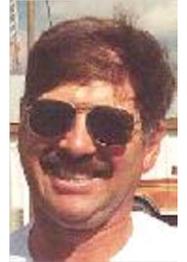
Volume 16 Issue 2

April 2013

The Prez Sez

From Lee Ator

Hi everyone. We're off to a good start but our 12th annual Jeep Safari is fast approaching so be sure to promote to all Jeep and other off road vehicle owners you know. We had good turnouts for work days we did call one off for weather. There is still some work to be done. The member appreciation dinner was put off until April 27th because of low RSVPs. Please, if you plan on coming, RSVP no later than Thursday afternoon the 25th. I'm not good about doing it either but we all need to so the food can be planned. Hope to see you all soon on the trails.



Upcoming Events

*All events take place at the VFW unless otherwise noted.
Breakfast is available at all trail events starting about 7:00 AM. Trails leave at 9 AM.
Always check the website for trails to be run or any last minute changes.*

Apr. 27: Board Meeting, Trail Builder and Member Appreciation Dinner. The Board will meet at 7:30 AM. This is open to all members. Breakfast will be available. The trails will leave at 9 AM. At 5 PM that evening the catered Member Appreciation Dinner will commence. If you are new to the club, please try to attend. This is a great way to meet people and get a feel for the many trails we have to offer. Please RSVP to tricieff@yahoo.com or call the club phone.

Apr. 26-28: Quincy Mall Jeep Display. See the information below.

May 4: Quincy Dogwood Parade. This is quickly becoming a very popular event. Save the date! See the information below

May 16-18: The 12th Annual 4x4 Safari. This is our premier Jeep run open to the public. We run all our trails, have catered meals, and prizes galore. Sign up NOW to ensure your spot.

June 4: Vehicle Recovery Course and Board Meeting. The Board will meet at 7:30 AM. This is open to all members. Breakfast will be available. The Recovery Course will leave at 9 AM for the trails. Check the web for more details.

June 15: TNT Farm Father's Day Run and Catered Dinner. This is one of our most popular member's runs. Save the date! More information later and on www.trjc.com.

TRJC Events at Quincy

By Jen Bell

We need Jeeps!! Quincy Mall display Friday April 26th (9pm pull-in time) through Sunday (6pm leave the mall). I would also like to have a couple of volunteers to help man the table. This is two weeks before the Safari, last year we gained event participants and club members through this event!

BUT WAIT--I also need Jeeps the following weekend (May 4th) for the Quincy Dogwood parade! We will follow the same plan as last year (meet up around 9am) and head to lunch afterwards.

Please contact Jen Bell 217-779-2391 or belljen@comcast.net if you can participate in one or both of the events.

Safari Notes

by Lilly Vittetow

Happy Spring (I think)! Well, it's that time of year again where we are all itching to get out our Jeeps and have some fun! The Safari is just a month away and we are busy in the planning of it. I'm urging everyone to get their registrations in ASAP so that we have an accurate head count for food preparations! Please!?!?! (That means you too Darren!)

I do have a couple of other things that I could use some help with by anyone that has a little time to spare. 1. I will be needing a helper to sell raffle tickets. Karen will not be making the Safari as she has family obligations. You can call me at 815-218-3022, catch me at registration or email me! 2. If you are a member of a Jeep type of forum or other club, could you help me plug the events? I've hit quite a few of them but am running out of time to keep up with them.

During the registration on Thursday, we will be having food for sale to help fundraising for some local young ladies! They will also be doing a Jeep wash on Saturday when we come off the trails. So come hungry and get your Jeeps really muddy!

Since we haven't been out on the trails yet this year, I don't have much else. If anyone has any questions (or suggestions), please feel free to email or call me! Happy Jeepin'!

Trail of Life

By Chief

Due to an unusually busy spring, and despite my best efforts, I have not been able to hit the trails once this season. I had truly hoped to be much more involved this spring, but the Trail of Life sometimes has some detours that are unsuspected. My mom who at 97 has been blessed with a full and fruitful life is now experiencing some severe health issues and we have been focusing on her care. Some of you "Old Timers" might remember her riding in the Chief's Buggy bouncing around in the back seat,



laughing and smiling all the way. She started her 4 wheeling career at the age of 80. One of her prize possessions is the trophy she won at a Land of Lincoln Jeep Jamboree in 1995 for being the oldest participant. She made many trips with us until I began to worry about her durability. After three heart attacks, a broken back, colon and breast cancer and two hips and a knee replacement I didn't want to press our luck. She always argued she was okay to go, but I was always concerned how I would explain to my three sisters how little brother took mom out in the woods and bounced her to death. So I grounded her. I would have to sneak out of town when I went "wheelin" and then face the wrath when I got home. I am glad we were able to share the times on the trail together. She still smiles when we talk about it. She loves TRJC and often asks about the members she knew.

Along with mom's situation, my oldest grandson graduated from Ft. Benning Infantry School in March. Our plans were to make the trip to attend his graduation. A nice leisurely drive to beautiful Georgia. Well, plans get changed. Without going through all the details, circumstances dictated I needed to fulfill some obligations at the State Fire Marshall's office on the day we had planned to leave. One of those things when you thought you had the dates correct and then found out you didn't when it was way too late to change any of them. I know you have all done that, or is it just me? Anyway, I was tied up all day from 08:00 to 16:30 with those obligations. Then I drove home, loaded up my truck, wife and daughter and started to Columbus, Georgia at 17:30. 705 miles and 11 hours later we checked into our hotel at 04:30. It had been a long time since I pulled a road trip like that. I will say it was a breeze getting through Atlanta at 03:00 in the morning.

The ceremonies and the facilities at Ft. Benning made the trip well worth it. The National Infantry Museum is located there. If you ever get a chance, it is a spectacular testimony to the sacrifices made by those who have fought to keep us free. Behind the museum is the parade ground where the graduations and other events take place. The Army has gone to famous battle fields throughout the world and gathered dirt to cover the parade field so the troops are marching on battlefield ground as they participate in the ceremonies. It was really moving, especially for a Grandpa.

I know this issue is a bit different than usual. But the name of the column is the Trail of Life and unfortunately life, like the trail it is not always smooth and without challenges. The good thing is, whether in life or on the trail there are always friends there to help you out along the way. Thanks for being there and for listening !

See Ya on the Trail, *Chief*

Safari Food and Car Wash

By Tonya Walston

Hello everyone and Happy Jeeping! From time to time we have had various organizations setting up to sell food during Registration and check in so I would like to take this time to give you some information on who will be there this year. My name is Tonya Walston, wife of Billy Walston (guide on Pokey's trail) and daughter-in-law of Pokey. I have recently picked up some

new hobbies that are not quite as dirty. I have joined the PIKE COUNTY FAIR BOARD and I am running the Pageants that are held annually (there are six pageants with approximately 120 total contestants). Each year when we crown our New Fair Queen we give her a \$1,000 scholarship for her continuing education. With the financial hardship that many business have run into it is becoming harder and harder to get this from just asking the local businesses to sponsor it. So we are going to be setting up a booth on Thursday during registration check in time from 4-7 or (whenever we run out of food). We will be selling hamburgers and hotdogs with sides and drinks. My Queen and Jr. Miss contestants will also be setting up a Jeep wash on Saturday after we all get in from the trail rides. All the proceeds from these two fundraisers will be used to finance the scholarship for the new Pike County Fair Queen and to assist with all the other expenses related to running the pageants. For any questions please contact Tonya Walston at 217-491-2972. If all goes well we will see you in August as well.

Thanks, *Tonya*

Kick Off Dinner and Run

By Jeff Sorensen

We had a good turnout. The day started with breakfast and a board meeting. The Board agreed to move all dinners up to 5 PM instead of 6 PM. After the meeting we headed to the trails. Myers, Dutch Creek, Ridge Rambler and Atlas were run. Myers had the majority of Jeeps. Lee had just himself and Trent. Ridge Rambler had some and Atlas had 2 Jeeps. At Atlas we ran some trail and cut some trails. We had a great day in the woods and got back to town about 5 PM. We then had dinner of soup, chili and grilled sandwiches. These trails and dinners are fun.....the more the merrier....please attend as you can.

Member Appreciation Dinner and Run

By Jeff Sorensen

We had breakfast followed by a board meeting. The dinner was cancelled due to lack of RSVPs and rescheduled to April 27. Two trails were run, Pokey's and Dutch Creek. Dutch Creek had 12 Jeeps. It was a good day and the rain held off until about 4 PM.

Extreme Terrain Jeep Club Finder

Two Rivers Jeep Club is now part of the Extreme Terrain Jeep Club Finder. TRJC members will receive a free t-shirt by placing a phone order and letting them know they're with **Two Rivers Jeep Club**. We also get a 5% discount. Email trjc1@trjc.com for the club code for discounts. The club page is <http://clubs.extremeterrain.com/club-individual.html?id=10454>

Keep the Weird Stuff to Yourself

By Karl Anderson

I bet most folks know their waist size, the inseam on their pants, the size hat they wear and even their neck size for ordering dress shirts. I always thought it was a little weird that my hat size was a 7 1/2 but my neck was an 18. Oh well. I don't decide body part measuring procedures, I just use the systems already set up. If I did, well, an inch would equal... maybe better leave that alone.

I wonder how many of you are aware there's even a system for measuring one's mouth size. Do you know yours? Mine is a 13 double E. How do I know this? Well, that's my shoe size and my foot seems to fit in my mouth just fine as I tend to insert it quite often much to the displeasure of others around me.

Ok, by this point you're probably thinkin "this guys usually a little on the loony side but this time he's got me completely baffled". The point I'm trying to get to is that my article in the last newsletter came off to some in a way that I absolutely never intended. I was comparing Jeeping to other hobbies and saying how much cheaper our sport is than all the others. Since Jeeping is anything but cheap, I was being my usual sarcastic self and exaggerating the costs of all the other hobbies. I by no means whatsoever meant to insult or demean the interests of others or especially the livelihoods of those that provide the opportunity for folks to pursue those interests.

I've since been educated a little on some of these other hobbies and learned some interesting facts, particularly about how many of them can be enjoyed in what in my opinion is the best part of the entire state of Illinois, Pike County. Want to play golf? Two beautiful courses to choose from in Pike County. Like Bed & Breakfasts? Pike County's got em, along with hotels, motels and lodges.

Going hungry or thirsty in Pike County is your own fault with all the great restaurants, diners and bars. Like to camp and play in the water? With the lakes, campgrounds and access to the Illinois and Mississippi rivers there's more camping, skiing and worm drowning available than you can shake your Zebco at. (No, that's not a euphemism.)

How about wineries? There are a couple in Pike County to enjoy and the one at Summer Hill is even operated by the son of one of the generous landowners that let' us trail ride on his property. Jeeps a little too noisy for your tastes while on the trail enjoying natures wonders? Pike County Saddle Club might be right up your alley (or trail). If you're still after that trophy deer, water fowl or game bird, or you just want to fill your freezer with something that would make PETA members wet themselves, outfitters such as Hopewell Hunts can make your best hunting fantasies a reality.

Needless to say, if you're in Pike County Illinois and you're bored, put the smart phone down, back away from your computer, go outside and enjoy yourself with whatever it is that trips your trigger.

But as I said before, just keep the weird stuff to yourself.

Charlie's Ramblin's

By Charlie Ater

It was just an average trail builder- Yeah, Right! It started out well enough. As usual, the breakfast was excellent, the camaraderie was warm and friendly, but there was only one trail posted which was Dennis' Meyer's Mayhem. For many of us, that's more than we want to tackle for any number of reasons. There were a couple of "newbies" that were not comfortable with going out on an extreme trail for their first run with the club, so when Murph (aka Gary Williams) showed his face for breakfast (I think he was trying to get a freebie), he was asked about his trail. Since he was going to be "busy", he said we could run his trail, but we had nobody familiar enough with the malevolent twists and turns of Murphy's law which is intertwined with the Mystery Trail. Can ya guess who was nominated by irrational acclaim by now? I've been on the trail maybe five or six times in the past nine years, so it's only rational that I, me, myself lead this.

My biggest success of the day was getting everyone to Virginia's (Murph's mother) to air down, hook up winch cables, swap fuses, text the next-of-kin, you know, the usual stuff. I tried to share the bla- er, duties of Trail Guide, but everybody wanted to watch me get lost (again. I'm probably the only trail guide that got lost on his own trail, but that's another story...).

I did manage to find the entrance to Virginia's Secret, and we wound our way through with minor difficulties such as losing a crossing here, needing a tug there, you know, the usual stuff. I'm not sure we did all of the Virginia's Secret- we did find some "interesting" mud climbs to attempt to the enjoyment of all. Ian was in his element on these- he had a good excuse to lay into the skinny pedal with good effect, and he had mud flying! We didn't try the mud creek; I figured that we'd have serious difficulties and we bypassed it.

Lunch break was in Virginia's yard where many tales of Jeepin' adventures were told. Billy had a flat, and as we pumped it up, found the leak between the rim protector on the tire and the bead. Leave it to Billy to come up with a totally unique way to flatten a tire! We pumped it up to about 40 psi, and Billy headed for town- his wheelin' day was done.

After lunch, we headed back into the netherworld of Murphy's Law- down into the hills and woods and creeks. Here is my forte' - I remember vaguely the general location of almost nothing! I told you that I was not that familiar with these trails- Hey, that looks good, let's try it! An old wagon road from days long gone that had Jeep tracks and was headed who knows where (I bet Murphy doesn't know!), with a choice of two crossings- one bad, the other worse. We chose the bad one, and Dan made it look easy. Gene made the 304 sing a pretty tune before he made through. JD's Scrambler on BFG All-Terrains just couldn't get traction and had to uncork his hydraulic winch. Yup, they're slow. And because of the wire rope "stacking", we had to re-anchor a couple of times. We got him through the crossing (complicated by a slick, steep clay bank) and remembered enough of the recovery class to get it done safely.

So it was up the hill, and down into the creek again, twisting, flexing, crawling up at a place I did remember, to hit an easy drive to the next rock bottom creek and the infamous Waterfall. We looked it over, then just drove through it with no problem. Even our "newbies" were not intimidated and made it look easy! I think the secret is that Murphy wasn't spotting... It was

deep enough that a foray into the middle swallowed a 36" or bigger tire on Dan or Jeff's rig- I dis-remember which.

Since we had some people that had to make an appointment, it was time to head out, so we did the logical thing- go on up the creek. Once past the notch, there's a rock bottom side creek- up that for a short ways then out onto dirt again. A short loop brought us to a crossing that wasn't too bad when we started, but will probably never be the same. Most rigs ended up strapped up and we wound through the woods. Seeing an open field, I took a trail that headed in that direction.



I think that most people that have been around me very long realize that although I'm a ROF (Retired Ol' Fart) with a lot of experience, I'm still relearning things I already know. So it was today. A nice, easy shot between two trees with plenty of room- except I had a brain fart, or let's just call it a Senior Moment. I'm still not sure why the BumbleBee tried to climb that tree, but I was going too fast and the left front wheel made it up high enough to throw the top into the other tree doing major damage. Since nobody was hurt, we crawled out into the field and stopped to assess the

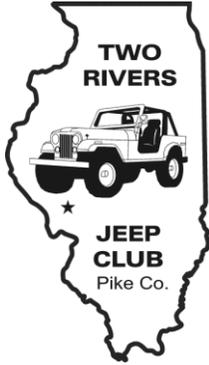
damage. Right rear window shattered, top took a double hit stopped by the roll bar, and stress cracked under the window. Lora was sitting on the side that took the brunt of the damage, but didn't get hurt by the shattered glass as most of it went behind her. The bumper and fender were somewhat altered- Crap, they were boogered up good! I pulled the fender out a little bit (you can't tell it's wrinkled if you stand far enough away). After a short discussion, we jumped in the Jeeps and headed back into the timber on a trail that dropped us in a creek, back onto the easy trail, down into the creek, up, and out.



I surprised myself- we got back to civilization with everybody we started with that afternoon. At the post-run air up, disconnect, call loved ones to let them know you've survived (and, in this case, Charlie did it again!), and general rehash of the day's events, things went well until Murphy showed up. There were criminations, incriminations, and recriminations, (and maybe some decriminations and anticriminations, too), talk of \$2000 trees, Messican lawyers, failure to warn of "Jumping Trees" and more.

Well, I gotta quit writing this stuff and start looking for the E-mail I got from that Ethiopian lawyer, banker, and home companion for the elderly to see what my options are. See you on the trail!

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