



Two Rivers Tracker

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

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Upcoming Events

All events take place at the old VFW unless otherwise noted.

Breakfast is no longer available. Trails leave at 9 AM.

Always check the website for trails to be run or any last minute changes.

Mar. 1 and 15: Trail Builder weekends. Meet at the old VFW, 8:00-ish, with trails leaving at 9 AM. 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. There will also be a Board meeting at 7:30 AM on the 15th.

Mar. 29: Trail Ride and Member Appreciation Dinner. Trails will leave at 9 AM. At 5 PM 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 trjceff@yahoo.com or call the club phone.

Apr. 12 and 26: Trail Builder weekends. As usual, meet at the old VFW, 8:00-ish, with trails leaving at 9 AM. There will also be a Board meeting at 7:30 AM on the 12th.

Apr. 25 and 26: Quincy Mall Jeep Display. Information is included in this newsletter. If you have any questions contact Jen Bell.

May 3: Quincy Dogwood Parade. This is quickly becoming a very popular event. Save the date! Once again, information is in this newsletter. If you have any questions about it, contact Jen Bell.

May 15-17: The 13th Annual 4x4 Safari. This is our premier Jeep run open to the public. We run all our trails, have catered meals, and prizes galore. Your discounted member registration form is enclosed in this packet. Sign up NOW to ensure your spot. Invite your friends. Non-member registration forms are on the website.

The Prez Sez

Lee Ator

Our Jeeping season has begun. We missed a little due to the bad weather but we don't want people driving on icy highways to get here. Hope you all have your Jeep work done and are ready for the trails. Mine is almost done...of course they never are really done. We're going to have a good 2014, with everyone's help. Please volunteer. Doug, Jeff, Lilly, Jen, Dave and a few others do a lot of work and can always use some help. And please remember to promote TRJC with your friends and let them know about our two open events. Hope to see you on the trails soon!



Trail Notes

Doug Watret, Trail Coordinator



While I sit here bracing for yet another winter storm. I keep thinking of warmer days and riding around with the top and doors off of the Jeep. Will this winter ever end??? Unfortunately I had to cancel the first trail builder already due to slick and cold conditions. Hopefully the next one will be a better weekend to get out on the trails and have some fun.

As I always tell everyone, please try to make it out for the trail builders. I've had some for the best times out on "work" weekends. We get a lot of work done plus a lot of fun also. I've also gotten to know a lot of good people in the process too.

I want everyone to know that this will be my last year as the trail coordinator for TRJC. I have enjoyed my time serving the club in this way and gotten to know a LOT of people by being in this position. I've decided to step down because of family obligations. There are too many volleyball and basketball games to go to and not enough Saturdays in one weekend to make it to everything. So now I am looking for someone to take over when I leave. **If any of you are interested; please contact me and I will let you know what it all involves and work with you this year to show you the ropes.**

I look forward to seeing everyone in Pittsfield this year.

Special Events News

Jen Bell

The first special event we have is the Quincy Mall Display. I will need Jeeps & people this year. We will meet in the North Parking Lot of the Mall. Be at the Mall between 8:55-9:00PM on Friday, April 25th to pull your rig in. If you are willing to donate your rig for the weekend but cannot be there at 9PM we can make arrangements to get keys from you. We will pull out of the Mall Sunday, April 27th at 5PM.

I also need volunteers to come sit at the TRJC information table.

The plan is to have these time slots filled:

Sat 10am-12pm _____	Sun 12pm-2pm _____
Sat 12pm-2pm _____	Sun 2pm-4pm _____
Sat 2pm-4pm <u>Dave & Jen Bell</u>	Sun 4pm-5pm <u>Dave & Jen Bell</u>
Sat 4-6pm _____	
Sat 6pm-9pm _____	

It is important for the club to do this event! Every year we have been in the Mall we have gained new members who did not know the club was out there. This is also just a couple of weeks before the Safari, so it's free advertising for that event. To volunteer your rig or help at the Mall, please email jenbell@adams.net

The second special event we have planned is the Quincy Dogwood Parade. It is May 3rd. I will not receive our line position until the week of the parade. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook page! Line up will be at 9am & bring some candy! Dave and I will be hosting a BBQ after the parade at our home in Lima. (15 min. north of Quincy). BYOB & something to share. When it gets closer, RSVP so I know how much meat to buy!

Watchin' Football... Dreamin' of Jeepin'...

By Karl Anderson

Ed.Note: I got this from Karl Jan.19 but the newsletter won't be out before March 1. Sorry Karl!

I am soooooo ready for Jeep season to start and football to come to an end. Nothing against football, mind you, I enjoy it quite a bit actually. It's just that when the football season is over, our first club run has either happened or is about to. I gotta admit, though, outside of deer season, the holidays and the occasional snow run in the Jeep, I really hate winter. If it were up to me, as soon as deer hunting, the holidays and the Super Bowl are over we would move straight into 70-80 degree weather. I get tired of slick roads, heavy coats, high heating bills and spending more time indoors. Fortunately, this winter I did manage to be home during a couple of nice snowstorms. Being a trucker means I don't always get to be where I want when I want, but I struck gold on two weekends so far, and since it's only January 19th as I write this, there's still time for more. That first big blast was a few weeks ago, maybe even before the holidays. My memory, among other things, ain't what it used to be. A half century of cheeseburgers will do that to you. No, I have no idea what cheeseburgers have to do with memory loss, but I bet if you knew the right people you could get a government grant to study it.

Anyway, we got about a foot of the white stuff starting on Friday afternoon going all the way to Sunday. Of course I called Mike Finlay to see if he had any interest in bringing out his CJ for some fun. Of course he was. Unfortunately, in his anxiousness to come out and start playing, he forgot to grab the remote for his winch. "Oh, we won't get into anything too serious, we'll be fine!". Right, Mike. You're forgetting the fact that you love hearing that 350 scream just as much as any other red blooded American male, and stomping on it on a snow covered side hill ended up sending the big brown CJ into the trees. With more perfectly good trees 20 feet in front of him he could have winched out easily, but noooooooo..... So I do my best to back our locker less TJ close enough to hook up a strap without getting myself stuck, and almost slammed into the trees and got stuck getting him free, but I did get him free. We immediately headed back up to the shop to air down, since we were too lazy to do so BEFORE we started wheeling. Remember, "we won't get into anything serious!" It's absolutely amazing how much easier those side hills are when your tires have a lot more flex.

Our second day of fun without sun happened last Sunday after another storm that came on a much colder day and dropped a bunch of dryer, more powdery snow. As it came down, the wind must have changed directions maybe 7000 times, leaving drifts as deep as our hoods in some areas and bare ground in others. Having learned our lesson on our previous run, we decided to avoid hills and just have some flat land fun. A friend of ours has a farm just north of us with a lot of thick woods on mostly flat ground, so we decided to explore that. Riding around in the trees was fun and pretty uneventful, but getting there through the wide open areas, especially going east or west, was quite a challenge. By this time, the wind was coming straight out of the north at quite a good clip, and the drifts were impassable in some places. When our locker less, 6 cylinder powered TJ would start to bog down, Mike would blast around us in his V8 powered CJ that has lockers at both ends and break the trail for us. We ended up having as much, or maybe even more fun riding the back roads, blacktop and gravel, and watching the expressions on the faces of the various road commissioners we encountered as they had to be thinking "What kind of idiots would be out in this miserable weather when they don't have to be?" OUR kind of idiots... That's who!!!! I only wish more idiots like us lived in this neck of the woods so we could have a real nice Jeep caravan next time we get a major blizzard.

Our first club run is in a couple weeks and although Amy won't make it due to a planned trip to Jefferson City, MO, to help our daughter who lives there find a wedding dress, (they apparently didn't feel they needed my input on that task, maybe they saw the same episode of Duck Dynasty that I saw). I'm hoping to bring along a future member. Some friends of ours at church have a daughter that met a boy from southern California in college, married him, and then moved out to sunny SoCal with him several years back before finally talking him into moving back to the wonderful, humid Midwest. He's been into offroading for years, but living near the millions of acres of desert like they did for years, his toy of choice was a Ford F150 prerunner style truck. And a 2wd one at that. Not much good in Adams County Illinois. He's finally coming to realize a Jeep might be more useful around here.

Well, the second quarter is coming to an end and the Broncos are leading the Patriots. Come on boys, get it over with so we can move on to the Super Bowl which is exactly one day after my very favorite day in February, our first club run! Or in case of bad weather, the 15th.

Tech Inspections

Dave Bell

For 2014 we have updated our inspection list to be a bit easier to use and make it faster for us to do inspections. Below I have listed out the inspection requirements and some explanation on them.

Drivers License/Proof of Insurance/ Vehicle Registration -

When you come to the events please be sure to have your driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration. When doing our inspections we will ask to see these and we will need to record your insurance information.

Working CB Radio -

Please ensure that you have a CB radio and it has a large effective range and you can hear and speak clearly with it. The CB is our main form of communication on the trail; it is used to keep people on the right track and to report any issues.

Tow Points Front & Rear (No Welded Hooks or Welded on Shackles) –

At one time or another you or the person in front or behind you is going to get stuck. Thus we require proper pull points at the front and rear of every vehicle. If you have attended one of the recovery courses you will have heard us talk about the kind of forces tow points can see. In certain situations these points see incredibly high amounts of force applied to them. Hooks or shackles that have been welded onto bumpers or frames will not be allowed. Properly installed hooks, OEM hooks, aftermarket bumpers, and hitches are fine.

Working Brake Lights and Horn-

Even though your jeep may not be driven on the street, we still expect you to have working brake lights. This is to help avoid anyone inadvertently running into someone not knowing they are on the brakes. The requirement of a working horn was added this year. The reason is so that it can be used as a secondary form of communication if you get separated from the group or have an issue come up. If you do not have a working horn, a canned air horn will be sufficient.

Battery Securely Mounted-

The reason this is checked is that in the event of a rollover the battery can come loose and hit the hood or other metal objects and create sparks. If you're upside down you may be leaking some fuel as well. Sparks + fuel, we shouldn't need to explain how that may turn out bad. Also be aware that you may want to check out your stock battery mounting. A couple years ago I rolled a Cherokee with the battery securely mounted to the OEM holder. The rig hit hard enough the stock holder broke and put two dents in the hood where the battery posts are.

Seats and Seat Belts Securely Mounted-

This is hopefully another no brainer. Seat belts are required at all times and even on some of the easier trails/obstacles there have been rollovers or trees hit. Also, can't wheel sitting on a bucket....unless it's securely mounted, JK no buckets.

If you have any questions please email me at taboocustoms@adams.net, or stop me at the next trail builder or event.

Two Rivers Jeep Club

Vehicle Inspection List

Owner Name: _____
Vehicle Make: _____ Vehicle Model: _____
Inspector Name: _____ Date Inspected: _____

Required for Everyone (Green)

- Valid Drivers License
- Proof of Insurance: Carrier _____ Policy# _____
- Vehicle Registration
- Working CB Radio
- Tow Points Front & Rear (no welded hooks or welded on shackles)
- Working Brake Lights, and Horn
- Battery Securely Mounted
- Seats and Seat Belts Securely Mounted
- Rollover protection (Factory or better)
- Fire Extinguisher (ABC)

PASS FAIL

Required for trails rated 3 & 3+ (Yellow)

All above Plus

- Rear Locker
- 31" or larger tires (Max 36" on some trails)

PASS

Required for trails rated 4 , 4+ & 5 (Red)

All above Plus

- Front and Rear Lockers
- Full Roll Cage
- 33" MT or larger tires (Max 44")
- Winch

PASS

Owner Signature _____

Last Revised 10/14/13

Trail of Life

By Chief



Last newsletter I believe I whined and cried about not having any snow and how winters aren't like they used to be. Well I am feeling a little better about the weather situation. We have had a considerable amount of snow so far this winter and as I sit to write this tonight we are under a winter storm watch for the weekend which unfortunately cancelled our first work weekend. There is also hope for another storm the beginning of next week which could be fun. Things are starting to look up.

Needless to say, as I have demonstrated in the past, it is tough writing about Jeepin adventures during the off season. Most of my 4-wheelin this time of year occurs on I-72 during our attempts to rescue those brave souls who "just didn't think it would be this bad on the interstate". Honestly I really kind of look forward to those opportunities. There are those special times however when you just want to say, "Surprise sweetheart, it is treacherous out here but we really appreciate the opportunity to help you get safely to your tanning session." It is really amazing how people totally disregard the warnings put out by the "Authorities" like the State Police and IDOT. What do they know? If you detect some bitterness in my writing you are probably correct. I am all about helping people in need, but some people really stretch my normally good nature. We had a car full of young adults who were traveling through our area in the 0 weather a few weeks ago. They saw the new 70 MPH speed limit signs along the way and apparently thought it was the required speed no matter what the road conditions were like. Needless to say they found out that when you step on the brakes on an icy roadway, sometimes you go faster and actually spin around out of control. Luckily they avoided all the other vehicles and just slid into the median for a few hundred feet. Okay, lesson learned. Now for lesson 2. None of them had any coats with them!!! Are you kidding me, don't your fancy phones have any weather apps? Did you not notice it was a little chilly when you left home? The wind chill was -20. It was way past being a little uncomfortable. We got them out and on their way with nothing damaged but their feeling of invincibility.

It is time for me to preach just for a minute. I know everyone who belongs to TRJC is not part of the problem, but you all have friends and some of them may need to be educated a little bit. Here is the thing, when roads are covered with ice and snow, slow down. When you see emergency vehicles or service trucks along the roadway, slow down. When you see red flashing lights at a particular location and you notice a car is off the road, possibly turned over or whatever remember this. There is a reason that car went off the road. It could be bad driving or it could be black ice. The point to consider is if they went off what is the possibility that you might? If you don't slow down it might be very high. The next question is if I do happen to go off at the same point what am I going to hit? Probably the fire trucks, ambulances, squad cars, and people who have gathered at the original incident. Please don't suppose you will be able to control your vehicle and maintain your highway speed. Nearly every week we receive bulletins about emergency workers being hit while working at highway emergency scenes. The law requires you to move to the furthest lane and slow down. You will not believe how many cars pass by us at highway speed, gawking and talking on their cell phones. I tell my people you may go into a hundred house fires, but you will never be in more danger than you are during a highway incident. I don't mean to be a Debbie Downer, but when the winter weather begins to degrade the roadway conditions we all need to take a little more time and slow down. **The Lives You Save May Be Your Own or the Emergency Workers You May Need Tomorrow.**

Thanks for listening. Be Safe And I will See Ya on the Trail

Chief

Words of Wisdom: Beginning a sentence, 'Now, don't get angry...' will always have the reverse effect. Never ever mix sleeping pills and laxatives.