



Two Rivers Tracker

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

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Upcoming Events

All activities take place or start at the WBBA radio station building unless otherwise noted. Trails leave at 9 AM. Always check the website for trails to be run or any last minute changes.

May 2: Quincy Dogwood Parade. This is a popular event and a different way to have fun. More details on the website, as available, including time and location. Andrew Bauer is the coordinator.

May 9: Trail Builder (if needed). Depending on the spring rains, we may need an extra weekend to get trails ready for the Safari. Check the website around May 1 for information.

May 14-16: The 14th Annual 4x4 Safari. This is our premier Jeep run open to the public. We run all our trails, have catered meals, and prizes galore. Invite your friends to the Safari. We still have room. Registration forms are on the club website.

June 6: Board Meeting and Vehicle Recovery Course/Trail Ride. Leave from WBBA at 9 AM. More details will be on the web site.

June 20: Miller's TNT Farm Father's Day Run & Catered Dinner. Leave from WBBA at 9 AM to caravan to the farm. A catered meal will be held that evening at the farm. All members are welcome. RSVP to trjcjeff@yahoo.com or call the club phone. This is our most popular member only run.

July 11: 4th of July Run. Leave from WBBA at 9 AM. More details will be on the web site.

The Prez Sez

Lee Ator

The Safari is just a few weeks away now. Don't forget to tell your friends and others you meet or know with Jeeps or other SUVs about this event. We ask for preregistration as this helps the Legion to know the food they need to fix. However, walk-ins are always welcome. Registration forms are found on the club website.



We finally got some work days in on the trails and they are shaping up. We had a nice turn out for the Member Appreciation Trail Ride and dinner. That's all for now. Hope to see you on the trail.

Trail of Life

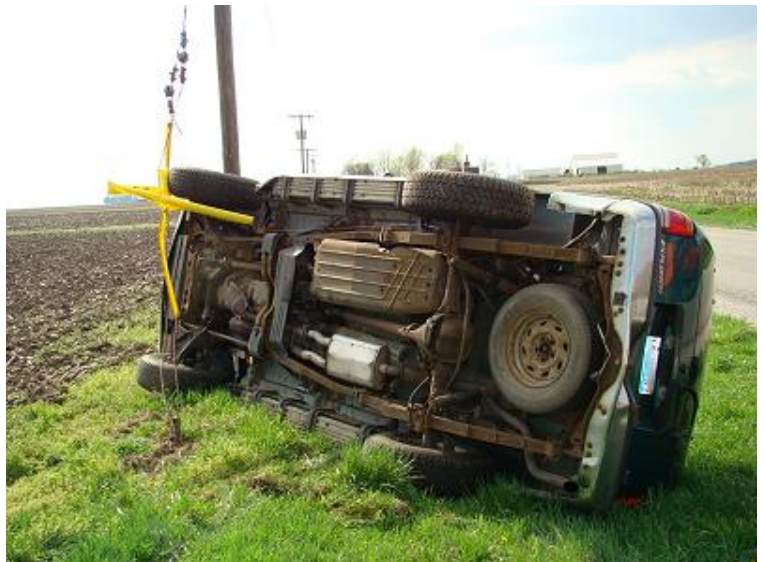
By Chief

Here we are into April and I am ashamed to admit I have not been able to make it to a work weekend yet. Between the weather, training classes at the fire house and alarms I have been doing a lot of juggling. I had hoped to have a plethora of Work Weekend Jeep Adventures to write about by now, but I don't. But, even though I haven't been on the trail yet this season it doesn't mean the faithful Jeep is just marking time. No, the beauty of owning a Jeep is that it has so many uses and is so versatile there is always something to do with it. As you all may know my Jeep is my daily driver. I use it to respond to alarms and I drive it all around town. It seems it is always being pressed into service for something. In absence of any trail adventures, I am going to relate to you some instances of non-trail uses for a Jeep. I know all of you have had some similar circumstances and situations, but I am really needing something to write about here.

Back in February when the winter weather really had its grips on this part of the country, we were called to the scene of a vehicle off the roadway with possible injuries. The interstate was snow covered and slick. When we got there, we found a vehicle had run off the road for a good 300 yards taking out one of those "lodging ahead signs" and then going through the fencing and traveling another hundred feet or so. It has always amazed how far a car can travel when only going "50, maybe 55" miles and hour. Anyway, when the wrecker got there to retrieve the vehicle he didn't have enough winch cable to reach the vehicle and being a flat bed wrecker, he was hesitant in getting off the pavement. Well here is my cue. I got out my snatch strap, hooked it to the rear framework of the car and off we went. Another satisfied customer.

When I can't use the strap, it is winch time. Last year I had to replace my old Warn winch due to a motor failure. I opted for the Superwinch 9000 for some cash savings. I will have to say so far I have been more than pleased with its performance. It saved me a couple of times on the trail last year and is doing well on with day to day chores as demonstrated in the following situations.

If any of you have daughters or sons who need to learn to drive let me give you a tip. If you are on a county road with no ditches and only open field with a no crops yet planted all around you, learn from this. If you feel your student driver is attempting to make a left turn a little too fast and the only thing that would most likely happen is the car will run harmlessly into the open field, DO NOT GRAB THE WHEEL and attempt to make the turn. You might end up like this poor dad. As dad grabbed the wheel to make the turn, the vehicle managed to run up the guy wire on the utility pole and lay over on its side. Luckily there were no injuries other than pride. This required some coordinated winch work. While the Jeep winch line was working to upright the vehicle, the winch on the rescue truck was pulling the vehicle back off of the guy wire. (Note the Winch Weight). The whole operation went smooth as silk.





In the past week the Jeep and its winch have been used to extract our 3500 Ram brush truck out of a situation it encountered while fighting a brush fire and to retrieve a vehicle which had run into a lake and submerged. The brush truck operation required a double line approach as the brush truck is a bit heavy, and when mired in the mud it can be hard to get moving.

For the submerged vehicle the Jeep teamed up with our rescue truck again to pull the vehicle to dry ground.

I guess what I am trying to get to is there are always times to use and enjoy your Jeep besides trail riding. Wheeling is no doubt the most fun, but not the only way to enjoy your Jeep.

See Ya on the Trail.

Chief

A New Season

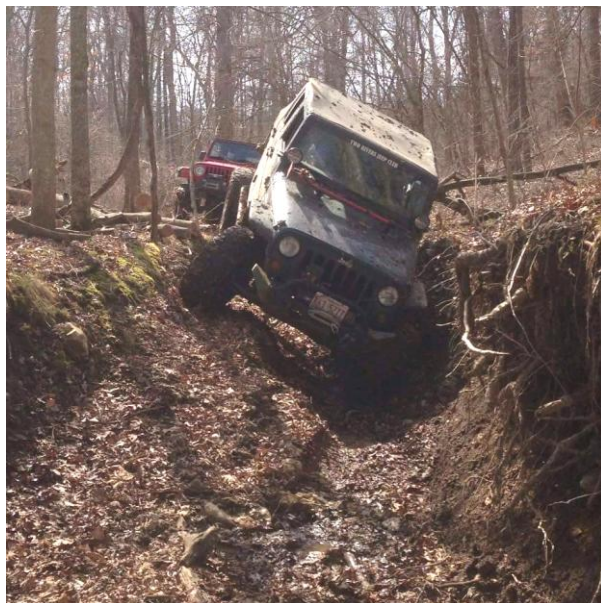
by Warren DeWolfe

So far the 2015 TRJC season has gotten off to a slow start for us all. We had two trail builder/runs cancelled due to Mother Nature. But the three successful runs we have had were great times. Murphy's Law in the beginning of February was awesome, a bit muddy but great to get out in the fresh air and mud. I had to get my front end aligned after being jerked up a hill while I pulled Brian Douglas and his broken axle Jeep and Eric Williams was pulling me! Mudd Butt's front end was off a few inches to the right. Needless to say it made for a fun four hour ride home.



For the next run we were out at Meyer's and had a blast out there with Dennis leading the way. I got some new battle scars on the body, nothing like some zebra stripes! I got to watch Karl Anderson pull a Sony Bonno through some pine trees. As Karl put it "I don't think you could have shoved a BB up his bu**!". I have not been out to Meyer's since my first year in the club and my Jeep was bone stock. I was a bit worried, especially with all the mud and rain there had been. But after getting some new tires the run before I am absolutely amazed at how much of a difference just tires can make! I had some issues a few times, but darn it I still did better than I ever have!!

This last run we had out a Pokey's and as if on cue Billy Walston always provides a good time. Billy was giving us all grief about no one wanting to go over a ledge at some point as he was the only one. Well when we got to 4 grand hill and Brandon and Joe couldn't make it up straight I figured I had enough of his smack talk...so I revved up the jeep and took off straight up that hill. Always a great feeling of accomplishment to succeed at something. After some lunch and more trails we came to rooster hill. Once again Billy's mouth was a running and no one else was making it up. So I figured what the heck let's give it a shot. It took about 3 or 4 tries but I made it up that too. So I was really puffed up that I was the only one to make it up both of those hills. Until I ended up breaking Mudd Butt on my first attempt at rooster hill. I broke the lower control arm mount right off the axle, but that just means I made it with a broken control arm. Not sure if that's something to be proud of or ashamed of? So I got the pleasure of riding in the back of Billy's XJ (That's what the back of squad car is like?) We did a good amount of trail clean up of downed trees after the loggers went through.



It is always great to get together with people, who share common interest, have similar values and ideals. Who care about others and are willing to work! That is still one of the main reasons I love coming down to Pike county and wheeling with everyone. It's always fun to come out and get muddy, sometimes fun to break something! That just means I get to upgrade!!! But it's the people that make it worth the 4 hour drive for me.

As some of you may have noticed, things on Face book are a bit different. Lilly and I have become the administrators to the club page. Usually it is me posting things on there, so I hope you all are enjoying the daily Meme's? I just see them elsewhere and can't help but share. Some of them are so appropriate to folks I/we know in the club. As always please check the club website for important information first as that is where I gather information from for the Face book page. If any of you are on Face book and have not checked out the club page, its Two Rivers Jeep Club. I have also created a tech forum page and a swap/flea market page. That way if anyone has any questions about parts or upgrades or anything you can ask. Since we do occasionally break stuff or have stuff we need to get rid off to pay for those upgrades we have the swap shop. If you're on Face book search Two Rivers Jeep Club Parts Swap & Shop and The Two Rivers Jeep Club Tech Forum. As this is my second year on the board for the club, its great meeting new club members. Please make sure you stop by and say hello as I am horrible with names and want to welcome you to the club. We are just a few weeks away from the Safari and I am already twitching!!! Now I am just starting to ramble on and my hand is cramping from pecking away....So I guess that means it's time for me to get back to work. See you on the trails!!!

Remembering Charlie

Dennis and Fran Shoemaker

When I took over Myer's, Charlie just retired so he had time to help build trails with David and me. He was determined to keep up with us. I got to be the first trail to put him on his side for the first time.

The first one was at the bottom of Purgatory. As we laughed at him I asked what he had done. There were words about us making fun about how the green mud tasted. We opened up a new trail that he didn't like so that trail became Charles Ater the Turd Boulevard.

The first time my wife called him "Uncle Chucky" he chuckled and hugged her. He chuckled and hugged her every time she called him that. He had such a warm heart and made everyone feel like they were part of the family.

Charlie, you are going to be missed in the Jeep world and whatever happens in the rest of the real world. You will always be in our thoughts and hearts.

Welcome New Club Officers

Joe Lennon has replaced Charlie's vacancy on the Board.

Brian Kirby has replaced Jen Bell as the Special Event and Merchandise Coordinator.

Brian's Bio: My family and I (Wife Brandy, Kids - Courtney and Cody) live outside of Liberty, IL near Siloam Springs State Park. Both of us were born and raised in Pike County. Glad to be back riding with the familiar faces and places of home.

His contact information is bkirby@doylemfg.com. Phone is 217-617-3672.



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



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