



Two Rivers Tracker

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

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August 2015

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.

September 5: Pittsfield Fall Festival Parade. We will be lining up at the school bus barn again this year. We need to be lined up by 10 A.M. Parade starts at 11 sharp. Let's have a really good turnout for this! Any questions, please contact Brian Kirby.

September 12: Annual General Meeting, Board Meeting and the Ma Earth Run. Our yearly meeting will start at 8 AM and is open to all members. This meeting is a great way to express your concerns and offer suggestions for the next year. We'll also be voting for 3 Board positions. If you wish to run for the Board, please submit your name and a short description of why you want to run to our club Secretary, Jeff Sorensen. A Board meeting will follow and the Ma Earth Run will start about 10 AM. This will be the last trail run of the year although we'll have a road run October 10. Please try to attend.

October 10: Road Run. This is our last run of the year. Since we cannot use our trails due to hunting, we usually take a scenic fall tour of Pike County on gravel roads. This is just a fun ride for the whole family with gorgeous fall scenery. At 6 PM the 2016 events will be planned. This is open to all members. Please attend. This is YOUR chance help shape the events that we'll have next year!

The Prez Sez

Lee Ator

We had a nice turnout for this year's 4x4 Blast with good weather for August. It was a bit warmer on Saturday than Friday but still pretty nice. Everyone seemed to have had good time. Remember we only have 3 events left. Please try to show up for the AGM and the Planning meeting on the 10th as this is your opportunity to help plan the 2016 club events. And please consider running for the Board as we have 3 openings. We can always use new people with new ideas. If you want to run, please contact Jeff Sorensen a week before the meeting.

A special thank you to Lilly and ALL the others who have worked so hard to make the Safari and Blast run well. It takes a lot of coordination and a lot of hard work. We can always use extra helpers so if you are interested in helping on trails or at the events, please let us know. Once again, thanks to ALL of you who helped make this year another successful wheeling season.

See ya on the trail! *Lee*

Trail of Life

By Chief

Another Blast has come and gone and I am really not sure that we have ever had one quite like it ever before on Murphy's Law. We had a really good time and we covered a lot of trail but we had some strange happenings. Murphy's Law usually lives up to its name with breakdowns, broken parts, Jeeps in precarious positions, and sometimes even carnage. (Yes Trent, carnage.) It's all part of the allure that is Murphy's Law. This year however we experienced a Friday like no other. Murphy's Law and its guides (except Ghost Rider) lost their MOJO!! Austin Powers first experienced this phenomenon in one of his super spy movies whose title I will not repeat to maintain the "G" rating of this article. Basically when you lose your MOJO you just cannot function as smoothly and effectively as normal in a particular area you normally excel in. This was the situation we found ourselves in on Friday. To further complicate things, Mother Nature also had her hand in the dysfunction of the run. With the copious amounts of rain experienced over the last few weeks, the trails developed major drop offs and Jeep swallowing holes where there previously were none.

The morning went pretty smooth but the afternoon was a different story. In a moment of weakness I listened to Murphy who thought we would have a really good time in the Twisty Turny Creek Run. I asked him if he thought it would be okay with all the rain. He assured me it would be fine so I said, "Okay, why don't you take the point and I will be right behind you." Things were going really well until I came around a tight off camber bend and saw Murph's Jeep nose down in a hole with his rear passenger tire about six feet in the air. (There are some great pictures but I don't have one). I am telling you, I had to reach up to put the winch line on his rear tow hook. We got him back on the ground with Mystery Mark's super guidance and we managed to get those already committed out and Ghost Rider was able to get some back to the start of the run. Then it was discovered Murph had broken a brake line during his super flex. Okay, Murph will head back to his house and fix the brake line and the rest of us would meet Ghost Rider and the group he had with him and head to the flat creek and the safety the creek run provides.

Well that was fine except for the fact that yours truly has not become completely familiar to the new field access point to the downhill leading to the creek. I managed to lead the group in the wrong direction for what seemed like miles before Ghost Rider called out and directed us to the right location. Once I got on the right track, I promptly headed to the familiar and safe Round a Bout. About 300 yard into the Round a Bout I came to a point where the bank had washed out due to the heavy rain and dropped two trees about three feet in diameter across the trail and then caved the bank in to completely block the trail. There was only one way out, BACK OUT. Holy Crap. I walked back the length of the column of Jeeps and advised we would have to back out the way we came in. Now mind you, going forward was a challenge, backing was going to be a disaster. Well I will have to say those on the trail that day did a magnificent job getting out of that jam. Some were able to find a turnaround which helped a lot, others displayed exemplary backing talent.

Once we overcame these problems things went pretty well. We did cover a lot of trail and I think everyone had a good day. A gentleman and his daughter from Minnesota claimed the Eugene the Jeep award for some pretty extensive body damage to the hood and passenger fender. Carl Anderson was a close second as the Can Opener had its way with Carl's super V8 powered CJ. Carl's eyes got real big for a second or two when he was being swallowed.

I think I have for the most part correctly described the events of Friday. It was a unique day. Saturday went much better and we got our MOJO back until that one moment of weakness and again I listened to Murph. He told me he knew of a downhill that the Mystery Trail goes up that we would have a good time going down. Heck, what could go wrong. We are going down, what could possibly happen. As I vowed to the group at the banquet Saturday night, I vow again to you, the readers, I will not listen to Murph again when he suggests anything. I literally thought I was going to have to leave my Jeep and walk out. The only problem was I could not get out of my Jeep. The ravine had me on my side and I couldn't get to the passenger door. I am not sure exactly how I managed to somehow get traction enough to get out of that spot, I suspect Divine Intervention, but I got moving and out the predicament. Dave Bell came up and did a stellar job spotting and directing Jeeps on how to maneuver through the obstacle. Once again Ghost Rider was able to get some Jeeps back to the top before the obstacle. It was an adventure.

The rest of the day went very well with a couple of Jeeps handling the Can Opener and Warren being handled by the Can Opener. He did make the Can Opener bypass look relatively easy. Ain't Jeepin' Fun? I truly appreciate and say "Thank You" to all the landowners for letting us play on their property. I also appreciate all the club members for being responsible and respecting the land we are allowed to play on.

Be safe and I'll see ya on the trail---

Chief

Words of Wisdom:

An invisible man marries an invisible woman—The kids were nothing to look at either.

A jumper cable walks into a bar, the bartender says "I'll serve you but don't you start anything."

A Blast at the Blast

Karl Anderson

I had a blast at the Blast!! Don't roll your eyes. It took me all morning to come up with that amazing piece of wit. Actually though, I really did have fun. Some of you know that Amy and I replaced her 05 LJ with a Grand Cherokee for her and an older trail Jeep for me. Well, us. (We've been married 30 years Oct 26th. I really should start getting used to saying "us".) Many of you were already familiar with the trail Jeep I bought. It belonged to my buddy Mike Finlay for about 4 1/2 years. I talked him into buying it from Jerry Williams, another buddy of mine, after he had owned it for approximately 17 years. When Jerry decided to sell it back in 2010 I was a little short on the cash required to make it mine so I talked Mike into buying it. Over the next few years I talked Mike into adding chrome moly axles, lockers, new steering, radiator and rebuilding the lower end on the motor. Then I talked him into getting a new girlfriend and starting a side business growing and selling shrimp so he wouldn't have time to Jeep. Then I talked him into thinking he'd really like a newer, more road worthy TJ and that letting the 86 CJ-7 sit in his garage and never see any use was a shame to the point that he just as well sell me the Jeep I'd been drooling over for better than a decade.

Now... If you believe all that I'm sure I can think of a few things I could talk you into also. Irregardless, Jeepin is definitely more funner with a better built Jeep. Unfortunately, it also adds a feeling of invincibility that can result in a broken leaf spring, a broken shackle mount and a bashed hood. So far I'm batting 1000. Three events, three incidents of damage. But back to the Blast... We ran Murphy's on Friday with about 10 others and if you haven't run Murphy's for a couple years you'll be pleasantly surprised at some of the trail additions. My mistake was thinking I could follow Mark and Mark. I may be a little harder core than I used to be but I ain't no where near hardcore enough to keep up with those boys.

Of course there were some folks we didn't know running with us and that's always enjoyable. It's fun watching someone who doesn't have the gnarliest Jeep and seems kinda quiet and unassuming just roll through the trail when by all appearances you wouldn't think they've done much more than haul the kids to school in their pretty little Wrangler. I didn't catch the guy's name, but someone from Minnesota was following us through a tight spot in the creek when I swore I heard a major crunching noise behind us. Sure enough , next time we stopped I got out and walked back to see his pretty well destroyed right fender and hood. I hate to think someone might



come to one of our big events for the first time and mangle their Jeep to the point they don't want to come back, but not this guy. He smiled and said he was just happy it was still drivable. Saturday rolled around and Amy had to leave for a wedding so I was left with no adult supervision for the day and it was probably for the best. I decided to subject myself to Chad's abuse and run County Line.

The only other Jeep was Roger and Donna Myers' LJ. At least it started out as an LJ. You'd think Roger caught it cheating on him the way he beats on it. How Donna keeps from beating him to death is what I haven't figured out yet. The way he dives off steep hills with the rear tires off the ground would probably land me in the married man's version of Time Out if I did that with Amy riding along. We had a good time though and once I get fuel delivery issues figured out on my 350 I'll be anxious to try a few of the hills out there I chickened out on that day.

All in all another great event and I'm already looking forward to seeing everyone at next year's Safari. I just hope Santa has a lot of room in the Jeep budget this winter

2015 Board Members and Officers

Board Members

President	Lee Ator	tamara.ator@gmail.com	217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gswilliam@live.com	217-285-4750
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	Joe Lennon	joelennon98@gmail.com	217-285-6639

Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & <i>BLAST</i>	Lilly Vittetow	lillysvintage@gmail.com	815-977-7365
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
Special Events Coordinator	Brian Kirby	bkirby@doylemfg.com	217-617-3672
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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: October 15

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FIRST CLASS MAIL