



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 18 Issue 6

December 2015

Upcoming Events

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

Feb 6: First trail builder of the season. Being this early in the year, this trail builder has the potential to be a lot of fun. However, if conditions are too dangerous due to the weather, it may be cancelled. Always check the website for last minute updates. Come early and visit. Trails will leave at 9 AM.

Feb 20: Board Meeting, Trail Builder and Kickoff Dinner. The Board will meet at 7:30 AM. This is open to all members. The trails will leave at 9 AM. At 5 PM the free catered Kickoff 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 trjcieff@yahoo.com or call the club phone.

Mar. 5, 19, Apr 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. We always need help to get the trails ready for the Safari and Blast.

Apr. 2: Board Meeting, Trail Ride and Member Appreciation Dinner. The Board will meet at 7:30 AM. This is open to all members. Trails will leave at 9 AM. At 5 PM the free 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 trjcieff@yahoo.com or call the club phone. .

The Prez Sez

Lee Ator

I hope the joy and light brought to the world by the birth of a child to a peasant girl and her carpenter husband in a barn over 2000 years ago is with all of you this holiday season and all of 2016. Joy to the world, Christ is born.

Darn, I still need to work on my Jeep. MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Ators and see you on the trail.

Trail Guides Needed

TRJC members, we need your help. We're looking for members in good standing who would want to be Trail Guides for the 2016 Jeep season and beyond. We need people who are willing to make a commitment to attend several times per year at trail builders, events, and trail rides. There **are** benefits, like free membership and free attendance at events. If you are interested please contact Rick Culberson (rick1@consolidated.net) or Joe Lennon (joelennon98@gmail.com). Training and mentoring will be provided. Trail Guides can be men or women so don't let your gender hold you back! As we get more Trail Guides we can then open up some of our lesser used trails and provide more wheeling variety. PLEASE consider helping.

Membership Renewals

If you wish to remain a member, be included in the club directory, to be eligible for the Safari and Blast club discounts, and participate in the upcoming member only events you should **renew now**. The directory will be printed the end of January so if you wish to have your name included, you have to get your renewal in the mail by the end of the year as it can take several weeks to get the club database updated.

If you are a special volunteer or trail guide, you **must** renew your membership or you will **not** be allowed as a helper or trail guide. We need the signed renewals for our insurance so please get yours sent in if you haven't done so yet.

Renewal forms were sent to all members in November but if you did not get yours or have lost it, a renewal form is in this newsletter.

Trail of Life

by Chief

Hey Gang! As I write this article it is one week from Christmas. I have been a really good boy this year so I am sure I am in store for some really great socks and underwear. I hope you will be as blessed. In reality I am not very easy to shop for and I seldom have anything to put on a list. At my age I pretty much have what I need and no place to put what I may want. I love this time of year with all the lights and decorations and snow. OOPS, that's the problem. NO SNOW!! I have written in the past concerning my love for snow. I am afraid El Nino is going to ruin my winter.

Moving on: with no recent Jeepin' adventures I struggled with what to write about so I have delved back into the past to reminisce about some Christmas tree adventures. When Mrs. Chief and I were married in 1987 we began to build our house, a house large enough to hold our blended family of 5 kids, four girls and one boy. A house which is that big needs a tree just as big. Chevy Chase really had nothing on us as far as Christmas tree "happenings". Every year we would load all the kids up in the family vanster and head to the Christmas tree farm to find the perfect tree. They always seem smaller in the woods than they do in the house. We have had trees that we literally had to use string as guy wires from the loft balcony to hold them up. We have experienced the "tree wall sweep" when cutting the binding cord and the tree explodes into its complete fullness clearing the walls of the pictures and shelves in the vicinity. I have been crumpled by a tree as I rolled it off the van roof onto my shoulder and discovered I could not sustain the weight of green monster.



One of the traditions I introduced the family to was the Perfect Tree Ceremony. When we would finally decide on the perfect tree, I would have them join hand in hand around the tree and sing O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree much to the chagrin of the older, cooler family members. One year, just as we were getting out of the van at the Christmas Tree Farm, a local news team assigned with reporting on the skills needed to secure the perfect tree happened to notice the kids pilling out of the van. They were immediately drawn to the group of young tree hunters and came over to inquire if they could follow us during the upcoming quest. Most certainly I said as the older kids faces turned crimson and their eyes became like little laser beams in my direction. "Dad, our friends will see this, UGGGHHH!" We went through the complete process with the TV crew close at hand. They even joined in when we sang the Perfect Tree Ceremony song. It was the hit story of the 6 O'clock news. Now days the kids who have kids of their own talk about how much fun it was picking out the tree.

After about seven years of real trees, we began to notice Mrs. Chief always seemed to get sick around Christmas time. Can you imagine, she is allergic to evergreens. Enter the dreaded artificial tree. We had the artificial tree for over twenty years. For about the last five years Mrs. Chief said this is the last year for that tree. Last year she made the firm commitment and as the tree was disassembled, it found its way into the dumpster. It was gone, it had served its time well but it was time for a new tree. This year the quest for a new tree started again, but alas it would be an artificial tree. We wouldn't be wondering the woodlands in our search but the big box stores instead. The initial searches were very disheartening. Basically the trees were not very pretty and looked strangely artificial. We were discouraged and wondering if we made a mistake discarding the old tree. Then we went to Hobby Lobby. They were having a half off sale. By that I mean you get the whole tree for half the price, not just half a tree. Anyway there was a really pretty 9' tree that the wife really liked. I liked it too until I looked a little further down the row and found the Tree of Trees. A 12 foot pre-lit tree that was amazing, and it was only a few dollars more!!!! What a deal!! Soooooo after a little begging and convincing and more begging we now have a beautiful 12 foot tree. The kids haven't seen it yet but I am sure they will spontaneously burst out into a chorus of O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree upon first sight-----

Merry Christmas and See Ya on the Trail.

Chief

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Predator 4WD
Randy's Auto Repair
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Tom Woods Custom Drive Shafts
Warn**



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

2016 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 **January 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