

Two Rivers Tracker

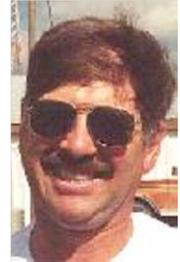
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The Prez Sez

Lee Ator



Well the Blast is behind us now, and it did well for August. The Event brought somewhere close to 120 vehicles. It had been raining up to Thursday night, but most of the trails got along pretty good in spite of the rain. So, a big thanks to Lilly and all her helpers, trail guides, Dave Christensen, Kay Iftner, for all they do to make these events happen, THANKS.!

So, as our season winds down, there are now only 2 weekends left on our calendar. September 20 is the Annual General Meeting and Board election. Terms are up for Charlie Ater, Bob Miller, and Lee Ator. Bob's wife is going back to school, so he is not running this time. My thanks goes to Bob for his time on the Board. Charlie and I are running but we need at least 2 more people to run. Please contact Jeff Sorensen in writing by September 15 so he can have ballots made for the meeting. The Ma Earth Run will follow meeting. Also, Donny Walston is planning a wood cutting day for Carl and Barb Seymour. See the details in Upcoming Events. October 18 is the Back Roads Run and the last Board meeting where we set next year's schedule. Hope to see you at the AGM and on the trails.

Upcoming Events

September 20: Annual General Meeting, Ma Earth Run and Carl Seymour wood cutting event. Meet at the VFW at 8 AM for our Annual General Meeting followed by election of officers. The meeting is open to all members. After the meeting there will be two options: (1) spend the rest of the day on the trails for the Ma Earth Run or (2) help cut wood for the winter for Carl and Barb Seymour.

For those that help cut wood Saturday, Billy and Pokey Walston will host a Sunday run on Pokey's trail.

Please consider helping with the wood cutting. Carl and Barb are long standing landowners and members and have helped the club in so many ways. Carl has had some health issues and could really use our help. This is yet another way we can thank a landowner and a club member for all the help they have given us for over 20 years. The work detail will leave from the VFW after the Board meeting. Bring a chainsaw if you can and work gloves. Contact Pokey @ 217-440-6701 if you have any questions.

Thanks for helping!!!!

October 18: Road Run and Planning Meeting. This is our last event for the year. Meet at the VFW by 9AM for a scenic road run as our trails will be closed for hunting. At 6 PM meet at the VFW for a Board meeting and planning for all the 2015 events. All members are invited to participate.

Trail of Life

By Chief



Okay Gang, the Blast is in the books and I will have to say that it was a great time despite the excessive rain and cloudy weather. In all honesty I would rather wheel in the rain than in that normal August 90 degree plus weather with the humidity.

Murphy's Law was definitely slick and muddy but we really did very well. If it wasn't for Warren's tires coming off the bead on Saturday we were pretty much event-less as far as Jeep issues. Now mud issues were a whole different story. The infamous Pike County mud had its way with several members of our off road convoy. One individual earned the dubious honor (and Friday's Eugene the Jeep Award) for being winched out of the same Jeep eating, off camber mud slide six times. Pull him out, slide back in, pull him out, slide back in. Persistence is the name of the game and the Jeep was ultimately set free from the slippery trap. We also had a bit of a challenge on a downhill slope on the way off the trail to our trail extraction point. Several Jeeps demonstrated their "Crabwalk" prowess with tires spinning trying to get a bite of traction to prevent them from sliding off the trail into the timber. A couple of Jeeps felt the pull too strong and were sucked down in the black hole amongst the timber. It always seems there is that imminent disaster waiting in that last hour before it's time to head back to town causing a delay in getting back to town. This phenomenon has been recognized over the years of guiding a trail named "Murphy's Law" by the experienced Murphy's Law guides.

During the "Pre-Trail Ride Strategy Meeting" held before each run on Murphy's to ensure we provide the most enjoyable Jeeping Adventure possible, this potential problem was identified and it was decided to begin the Jeep Extraction operation a little earlier than normal to ensure we were able to make it back to the Legion in time for dinner. After all, eating is as much a part of the event as Jeepin, at least for me. Anyway, the plan worked to perfection and we were able to overcome the little bumps and snags and were back on time both days. We had seven Jeeps on Friday and ten on Saturday. The groups both days behaved quite well and were quick to help out when someone needed it. This allowed us to keep moving and cover a lot of trail. We were helped out again both days by the Mystery Trail crew as no one wanted to try their trail for some reason. They were a big help. As usual Mr. Jeep aka Ghost Rider, aka Randy Newport kept Gary aka Murph and myself out of trouble and as always seemed to be just where we needed him when we needed him. It was good to see the silver Cherokee stomping through the mud again.

In the last issue, I mentioned a crash sustained by myself and Mrs. Chief during the Safari. Without taking too much more space let me just say, #1: we should not try to go up Rock Hill until the tree root situation at the top of the hill is taken care of. #2: Jeeps go much faster downhill backwards than they do going uphill forwards. #3: Hitting a tree when you are going backwards totally out of control faster than you ever went going forward is not always a bad thing. #4: E-bay is a good place to find a good replacement tailgate. #5: A High-lift jack can straighten almost any body damage. #6: Don Maxheimer is an excellent welder and fixer of deformed tire carriers and he works for a breakfast and a couple "ditch beers". #7: Thank you Jesus for planting that tree years ago that kept Mrs. Chief and myself from going to the bottom of the hill in a manner which I cannot imagine would have been pleasant.

It's been a good summer of Jeepin. I hope I can make some fall events. If not, spring is just around the corner. In any case, I will See Ya on the Trail.

Chief

Words of Wisdom: "If advertisers spent the same amount of money on improving their products as they do on advertising then they wouldn't have to advertise them."

And "Laziness is nothing more than the habit of resting before you get tired."

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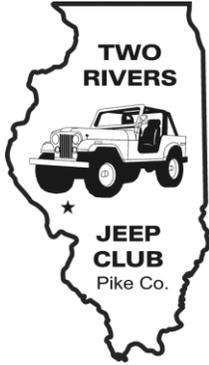
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