

# Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 17 Issue 5

October 2014

## The Prez Sez

Lee Ator



Our wheeling has come to an end and next year's schedule has been set. It's found later in this newsletter and online. After this year's Annual General Meeting we have some changes in the club. Doug Watret, after many years as trail coordinator, is stepping down. Rick Culberson, with help from Dennis Shoemaker, will take over that job. Charlie Ater is stepping down from landowner appreciation. Rick will also take this on. Karl Anderson replaced Bob Miller on the Board. I want to thank Doug, Charlie, and Bob for their years on these jobs. Also thanks to Rick for taking over. Jen Bell has said she is giving up promotional items after the 2015 Blast. Anyone who would like to take this on should contact Jen.

Most of you know the VFW hall was sold to the Pike County Historical Society and they are starting to set up a military museum in this building. TRJC will move to the meeting room of the WBBA radio station at 1260 West Washington St., just west of the American Legion Hall. All meetings and trails will leave from there. An updated map is on the web page.

2014 has been a good year for the club with great turnouts for the Safari and Blast plus the club runs. I want to thank Dave Christensen, Kay Iftner, Lilly Vittetow, Doug Watret, Jen Bell and all those who help to make 2014 a great year for TRJC. Now it's time again to get it in the garage and fix what we broke and add those little extras we didn't get on last winter. See you on the trails in 2015.

---

## Safari and Blast Donations

Thanks to the generosity of attendees at our two main events, we were able to do a lot for the community this year. Raffle tickets netted \$4,273.00, promotional items netted \$1,690.00, and ice cream sales totaled \$300.00.

The ice cream dollars will go to the Pittsfield Food Basket Program. \$1500 will go each to Pike County Unmet Needs and Access Food Illinois programs. The Pike County Historical Society will get \$1100, as well as the Griggsville and Pittsfield Fire Departments. Pikeland After Prom gets \$300.00 and the Special Olympics-Polar Plunge gets \$250.00.

We should all feel very proud of what we do for the community that lets us wheel on their lands. Our club is unique in that we have the most trails of any in the Midwest that are on 100% private land. Thanks to all of you for being members and for supporting the community that gives us the chance to enjoy our hobby. Without your support, our wheeling opportunities would be severely limited.

# New Board Member Karl Anderson

Dave asked me to tell a little about myself, so here goes.....

I like moonlit walks on the beach and a lovely glass of wine... OK, that's a lie. I'm more of a beer guy and why walk on a beach when blasting across it in a Jeep is WAY more fun?!?!



Amy and I have been members for about 5 years now and have made some great friends in that time along with having a whole lot of fun! Our participation has been a little hit and miss the last couple years (family and business issues), but the dust has settled quite a bit and we plan on being regular visitors to Pike County from here on out.

Some of you may recognize my name from the completely ignorant but hopefully mildly entertaining articles I occasionally contribute to the newsletter. Try not to hold that against me. As your newest board member I hope I can help the club continue to grow long into the future and I'm more than happy to listen to any concerns any of you may have. Or at least pretend to listen, depending how grumpy you are.

## And Karl's First Article as a Board Member

Heart attacks suck! Yeah, I know, big news flash right? Not that I ever doubted that fact, but I guess it was my turn to find out for myself on Oct 12th. I woke up at a truck stop in Mendota IL that Sunday morning (I drive a truck for a living, just in case you thought I have a habit of waking up in strange places for no good reason), and I felt fine. I started to walk into the store to perform the usual morning rituals and thought I was feeling a little winded and tired for just getting a good night's sleep. After business was tended to I started out the store to walk across the street to the truck stop with what I've always known to be a pretty good restaurant and realized something wasn't right. My chest was pounding, I was getting short of breath, and just all around feeling like I'd just been run over by a D-9 Cat bulldozer.

I thought to myself, I'm 51 years old... This surely isn't a heart attack... Anyway, I decided to head back to my truck instead of going for breakfast. As I got in the truck I started sweating like a Honda Vespa rider whose scooter just broke down in front of a biker bar. (Not sure, but I'm guessing that would be bad). I still thought there's no way this is a heart attack, but who could I ask to see what the average heart attack feels like? Then it dawned on me that I had the answer to any question imaginable in the palm of my hand, so I got on my phone and Googled "Heart attack symptoms".

Now, normally I like getting everything right. Not that I do on a regular basis, but I've always thought it would be cool. Well, it would be unless you're reading through the symptoms of a heart attack and you keep saying to yourself, Yup, got it... Yup, got it... Yup, got it... Well, hell.... Guess it's time to call 911!!

The 911 call was an experience in itself. I described what was going on and while I waited for the ambulance, I had to repeatedly tell the lady "Yes, I'm still here!!" I mean seriously, how many people call 911 while they're having a heart attack and then lay the phone down to go get a soda? But the really fun part was describing my truck to her so the ambulance folks could find me. There were very few trucks left on the lot and I don't pull van trailers like most of the others that were around me. I pull lowboys and haul farm and construction equipment. I explained to her that I was very visible from the road, only a few parking spaces from the edge of the lot, and that I had a lowboy with a brand new Case/IH tractor on it. Her response was, "OK, what color is your truck?" I calmly replied, "It's gold. AND IT'S THE ONLY EFFING TRUCK ON THE LOT WITH A BRAND NEW CASE/IH TRACTOR ON IT!!!!"

Fortunately, the ambulance driver grew up in farm country because before I knew it they were parked next to me, setting up the stretcher and getting ready to haul my fat butt to the ER. The doc at the Mendota hospital examined me and calmly said, "Um... you're having a heart attack and we need to get you to Rockford to the heart center ASAP.... " I realize it was an emergency situation and all, but I couldn't help but think "Well crap... that's 5 hours from the house.." So I talked them into sending me to Peoria instead. I asked the doctor "I guess there's a chance I might not make it to Peoria right? Maybe I should go ahead and call my wife?" He said that yeah, that was always a possibility. (Well thank you Mr. Sunshine!!! You couldn't put a happy face on it just to make me feel better???) So I called Amy and told her she might want to put it in the wind toward Peoria and I'd see her there. They loaded me up on the helicopter and away we went.

When I got to St Francis Medical Center they got me right into the room they have set up for people who've eaten way too many cheeseburgers in their life and they shoved some balloons up through my veins and I instantly began feeling better. Two days later Amy was hauling me home for some rest and a good night's sleep without needles stuck in my arms all over the place and enough wires hanging off me run the entire electrical grid for the Eastern Seaboard. A week later I had to go back to get the left side of my heart Roto Rooted since they only wanted to do the right side the day of my attack.

Anyhow... I'm feeling MUCH better now and I go back to work tomorrow (Oct 28th). So now you're probably wondering what this all has to do with Jeeping, seeing as how this IS a Jeep club newsletter.

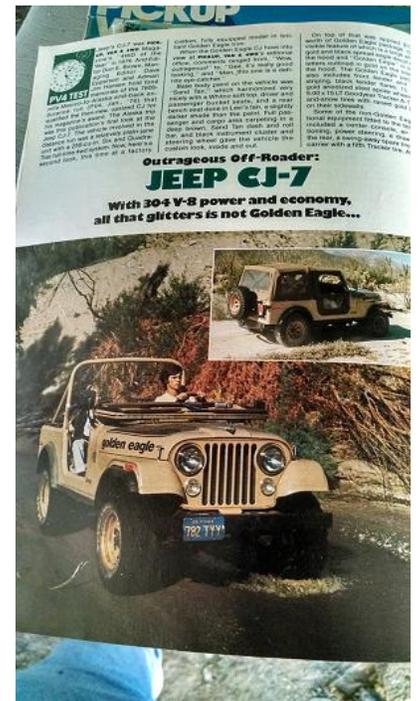
Well.... this has EVERYTHING to do with Jeeping.

#1: If you want to be around to continue Jeeping for a long time and you start to feel your chest tightening and you're having a hard time catching your breathe and you start sweating like you've never sweated before without any really fun activities causing it... CALL 911!!!!!! If you lie down thinking it will go away and you'll feel better soon, well..... You better hope there's Jeeping in Heaven, cuz you probably won't wake up back up to do any more Jeeping here on Earth....

#2: After you get home you have a lot of time to think about Jeeping. Think about, not do it. Not that it's hard on someone who just had a heart attack, but if you break something and you'll be out of work for a few weeks it's kinda hard to afford to fix it.

#3: Although I didn't want to risk any breakage from serious trail riding I did take the opportunity to ride around the back roads all over northern Adams County, many of which I hadn't seen since I was a kid, blasting around all over the place on my 3 wheeler. Yeah, you can ride the back roads in your pickup, but it's just not the same. I even explored one dirt road not far from me that although it's an actual county road, it's barely passable. Unless of course you're driving a descendant of the vehicle that helped America win WWII.....

#4: With all my free time I was able to dig out a few old 4x4 magazines from way back and reintroduce myself to Jeeping the way it was back in the 70's and 80's. (Remember those days? When the Jeeps on the Rubicon looked like Jeeps with oversize tires instead of moonrovers?) If any of you remember Granville King, you'll know that this every bit as enjoyable as reading the new magazines we get today. Ol Granville is kind of a hero of mine, spending most of his time in the back country, adventuring around and writing about his experiences for the rest of us to enjoy. His grammar wasn't exactly correct and who knows if his stories were 100% true, but who cares, he was always fun to read.



#5: Lastly, one of the best afternoons I spent had nothing to do with Jeeping. Amy and I put the fishing poles in the back of the pickup and went fishing. We caught a few fish and just, well, got to go fishing. Our 29th anniversary was yesterday (Oct. 26), and sometimes a couple just needs to go fishing. Like they say, you've never seen a bass boat in front of a therapist's office. Or a jacked up Jeep, come to think about it...

I'd like to end by thanking everyone who voted to put me on the TRJC board and it now looks like I'll be alive to serve out my term and hopefully make some kind of positive contribution. As I stated in my bio they wanted for the website, I'm happy to listen to any concerns or ideas you may have for improving the club. Unless of course you're grouchy. Then I will refer you to Charlie or Murphy.

Now go kill some deer so we can get back to Jeeping!!!!

---

## Trail of Life

By Chief



Another Jeepin' season has come and gone and it seems as I get older they tend to come and go at a much faster rate. I know you have heard that from old men before but just wait till you get old and I believe you will make the same observation.

I am hoping for another winter of massive amounts of snow like last year. I have come to appreciate snow as a viable Jeepin' option when our trails are closed during the winter. Given enough snow, every street becomes a rated trail. There are billions of miles of streets, aka trails, when covered with a foot of snow, to buzz around on. You can sharpen your recovery skills assisting those other unprepared drivers in their Toyotas, Subarus and Land Rovers. You can sharpen your slick surface driving skills to become a "Master of the Mud" next spring when the Pike County Mud is at its slickest. And best of all, in the winter, the slick white stuff just melts away when you are done and you don't have to spend hours trying to get that glue like Pike County Mud off of your Jeep. FYI, Murphy is planning to install scales at the trail heads to be able to weigh Jeeps before and after the runs. He is going to charge by the pound for the quantity of mud you carry off from his property. I think he wants a new Jeep and is going to use the money gathered to fund it.

Last winter during one of our many snow events, I managed to become immobilized by the white stuff just outside one our fire station doors. I had parked my buggy inside to keep it warm and snow free so I would be quick to respond if needed. The problem was the snow blew off the roof and piled up in front of the door where I had parked. We were preparing to make one of our Interstate welfare runs to make sure there were no stranded motorists on I-72. As the door opened there was wall of snow about two and half to three feet high for about ten feet. Up to this point the snow had been the really nice fluffy stuff that will allow you to just blast right through it. Well unbeknown to me, the snow had now gotten much colder, yes snow does do that, and the top layer became very hard. Just hard enough to allow me to drive up on it and then fall through, leaving my four wheels spinning like crazy grabbing air for traction. Let me tell you there is no more humbling circumstance than getting your prize driving machine stuck in the company of a firehouse full of firefighters. One of my faithful young men said with confidence, "don't worry, he'll hit the locker buttons and drive right out". Wrong Jeep!! That was the old "Chief's Buggy" with the magic buttons.

At this point I had not made that conversion yet on this Jeep. I was stuck and not going anywhere. Then the scourge of the 21st century appeared. Those pesky camera phones, some with video to capture the event. I am sure it is on YouTube somewhere. The good part is there is a big red fire truck parked right behind me sitting on dry concrete that can easily pull me back to the starting line. No harm no foul, just a little pride taken down a notch of two. Hey if you haven't been stuck, you haven't been Jeepin'. Yeah, winter can be a Blast when the white stuff is in abundance; I am looking forward to it.

Speaking of honing your recovery skills, I had an experience just last week that I believe involved one of the worst stuck cases I had ever seen. I am going to save it for the next issue in case we don't get any snow and I don't have anything to write about. Just a hint, it involved a big machine and a lot of ruts in a pristine yard. Stay tuned.

In the mean time, have a good fall and upcoming winter. The start of the 2015 Jeepin' season is only three months away.

See Ya On the Trail  
**Chief**

Advertisements Picked From Newspapers:

-----Mixing bowl set designed to please a cook with round bottom for efficient beating.

-----Tattoos done while you wait.

-----Auto repair service. Free pick-up and delivery. Try us once, you'll never go anywhere

---

## Rick's World

Hello to the Jeep world. I'm Rick Culberson. Most of you know me as I've been on the Board for a few years. I've also helped with the Safari and Blast a few years ago. I think I have been guiding on Pokey's forever, well at least since Billy(Lil Poke) has become potty trained. That was 1998, or somewhere around that date. Somehow I let those who have the power talk me into becoming the Trail Coordinator along with a few more jobs. I do believe instead of retired I became retarded, but hey it's all fun. I said if I was going to be the Trail Coordinator, I may as well be the Landowner Appreciation person also, as I would think they would go hand in hand. So now if a landowner has trouble, which I don't think is too often, they will know who to talk to and I will know which guide to send out to fix whatever. Sounds pretty simple to me. Like I said before I have not seen very much trouble but it is nice to help out our landowners. Speaking of which, we had a great turn out for cutting wood for Carl and Barb Seymour, a long time club member and a trail guide on Pokey's with me a few years ago and also a landowner. A BIG thank you to all that helped. It will get them into next spring and hopefully after that.

We are sorry for the members that came down to wheel that day. Most of our landowners ask that we do not use their land before deer season and for the few that were going to let us run, both trail guides had to work that Saturday, so again sorry to the members that did not get to go wheeling that day. I hope you got to stay and go out on Pokey's the next day. I know Donny (Pokey) was going out and that's always a good time. I have had some of my best times down on Pokey's with Donny and Billy. I've seen Jeeps do things I never dreamed could happen. I will never forget the stock red TJ trying to climb a hill. Two guys in front and two girls in the back seat; try as they might just could not make it. So one last try, well up he went so hard the Jeep jumped back and landed on the rear bumper and spare tire, not a drivable wheel touching anywhere. All four of them leaning forward thinking the Jeep was going to roll over,. All of us trying to get our cameras and phone for that Kodak moment.

All I could do was laugh and yell at Pokey, "stop you got to see this." As I remember Warren Dixon made the leap of faith from the hill to the front of the Jeep to hook a cable on it so we could pull it back on all fours.

OK now to work. The next is a list of trails and the guides. If any of these trails are wrong, please get in touch with me ether at my cell number (217)827-2899, or e-mail me at [rick1@consolidated.net](mailto:rick1@consolidated.net) . We need any changes as soon as possible.

<b>Atlas:</b>	<b><u>Walt Gilbert, Jeff Sorensen, Dan Reineking</u></b>
<b>Black Oak:</b>	<b><u>Bob Mikrut, Bob Lyerla</u></b>
<b>County Line:</b>	<b><u>Seth Parker Chad Hannig</u></b>
<b>Dutch Creek:</b>	<b><u>Lee Ator, Trent Knowles</u></b>
<b>Hopewell Heritage:</b>	<b><u>Charles Ater, Tony Pierce, Norm Parsley</u></b>
<b>Lake Shore Drive:</b>	<b><u>Carey Levoy, Doug Watret</u></b>
<b>Mongo:</b>	<b><u>Pooh Keokham, Matt Crow</u></b>
<b>Murphy's Law:</b>	<b><u>Gary Williams, Steve Gambrill, Randy Newport</u></b>
<b>Myer's Mayhem:</b>	<b><u>Dennis Shoemaker, Donnie Ince</u></b>
<b>Mystery Trail:</b>	<b><u>The Marks</u></b>
<b>New Salem:</b>	<b><u>Don Maxheimer, Doug Maxheimer, Jeremy Heggen</u></b>
<b>Pokey's Run:</b>	<b><u>Billy Walston, Brandon Douglas</u></b>
<b>Ridge Rambler:</b>	<b><u>Hamer Tate, John Huebner</u></b>
<b>Smacker:</b>	<b><u>Frank Smith, Brian Baker</u></b>

If any of these are incorrect PLEASE let me know as soon as possible.

I would like to congratulate Karl Anderson, our newest board member. He replaced Bob Miller. A big thanks to Bob for his service and hope he stays around and helps the club as much as he has been. All the rest of the Board stayed the same and the officers stayed the same. The only other change was Doug Watret is no longer the Trail Leadership and Maintenance Coordinator Again a BIG THANKS for the job he did. Well done Doug. And Charlie Ater is no longer Landowner Appreciation. He also has done a great job.

I have meet a few of the new members and they all seem eager to help with any of the work that needs done. They also have a lot of fun wheeling and that's the best. Well hope to see you all out there on the trails, come up, and say hi. And remember, when approaching a four way stop, the vehicle with the largest tires always has the right of way. Stay safe out there.

---

## **NEW LOCATION FOR ALL TRJC EVENTS**

We will no longer be able to use the old VFW building for our meetings. Our new club location is the WBBA meeting room, 1260 West Washington St., just west of the American Legion Hall. All TRJC meetings will be held there and we'll also use that location for trail staging. The Safari and Blast will continue to use the American Legion as their headquarters. An updated map is available on the club website for the new location.

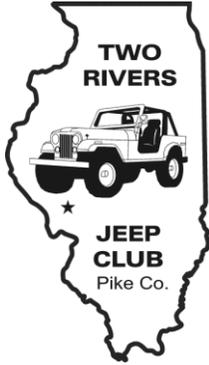
# 2015 TRJC Event Calendar

## NEW LOCATION FOR ALL TRJC EVENTS

All local TRJC events, except the Safari and Blast, meet at radio station WBBA,  
1260 West Washington St., just west of the American Legion Hall.

Date		TRJC Event	Time
Feb	7	First Trail Builder of the Season (Weather permitting)	9:00 AM
	21	Board Meeting #1	7:30 AM
		Trail Builder	9:00 AM
		Kick Off Dinner (catered)	5:00 PM
Mar	7	Registration opens for the Safari	
		Trail Builder	9:00 AM
	21	Board Meeting #2	7:30 AM
		Trail Builder	9:00 AM
April	11	Member Trail Ride	9:00 AM
		Membership Appreciation Dinner (catered)	5:00 PM
	25	Board Meeting #3	7:30 AM
		Trail Builder	9:00 AM
May	2	Trail Builder	9:00 AM
		Quincy Dogwood Parade (Location TBD)	TBD
	9	Trail Builder --- If needed	9:00 AM
	14	Registration Opens for the 4x4 Blast	
	14-16	14th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari (Open to the public)	4 PM Thu
Jun	6	Board Meeting #4	7:30 AM
		Recovery Class / Trail Ride	9:00 AM
	20	Miller's TNT Fathers Day Run & Catered Dinner	9:00 AM
July	11	4th of July Run	9:00 AM
	25	Trail Builder	9:00 AM
Aug	6-8	17th Annual 4x4 Blast (Open to the public)	4 PM Thu
	22	Member Trail Ride	9:00
Sep	5	Pittsfield Fall Festival Parade	TBA
	12	Annual General Meeting and Board Elections	8:00 AM
		Board Meeting #5	9:00 AM
		Ma Earth Run	10:00 AM
Oct	10	Road Run	9:00 AM
		Board Meeting #6 (2016 Event Planning)	6:00 PM
May 2016	19-21	2016 - 15th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari	
Aug 2016	11-13	2016 - 18th Annual 4x4 Blast	

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



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**