

Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 17 Issue 6

December 2014

The Prez Sez

Lee Ator

I saw eight deer today and I started to look for a chubby guy wearing red but then I remembered I was on Dutch Creek and those are whitetail not reindeer. But it's the Season. Let us remember the reason for the Season is a baby boy born over 2000 years ago to a peasant girl no more than fifteen herself. But what a joy that baby gave the world! We give gifts today to remember the gifts brought by three wise men to honor the baby born under the bright star. So may the joy of Christmas fill our hearts all year long.



And by the way, get that Jeep fixed....February is not that far away!!!

Merry Christmas from the Ator household to yours.

Thanks from Carl and Barb

On September 20 there arose the sound of multiple vehicles entering our driveway. This was followed by 25 to 30 people jumping out of their Jeeps and trucks armed with chainsaws. In a matter of a few hours they had cut, split, and stacked enough firewood to get us through the upcoming winter. Words cannot ever express our heartfelt thanks to everybody that was here. We're so grateful to TRJC and their members.

Carl and Barb Seymour

New Location for All TRJC Member 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 **EAST** 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.

Membership Renewals

All club members must renew by the end of this year if you wish to be included in club directory and remain a member to be eligible for the Safari and Blast club discounts as well as participate in the upcoming member events. The directory will be printed mid-January so if you wish to have your name in the directory, **please get your application sent in BEFORE the end of the year**. It usually takes about two to three weeks once the applications arrive in Pittsfield until they get processed and entered into the membership database used to print the directories.

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.

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 7: 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 21: 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 trcijeff@yahoo.com or call the club phone.

Mar. 7, 21, Apr 25: 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. March 21st and April 25th Board meetings will be held starting at 7:30 AM. Board meetings are always open to all members.

Apr. 11: Trail Ride and Member Appreciation Dinner. 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 trcijeff@yahoo.com or call the club phone.

Trail of Life

By Chief



Hello Gang. I hope you all made it through Thanksgiving okay. No turkey overdose or cranberry poisoning. I have observed there is just about enough time between Thanksgiving and Christmas to lose the weight you might have picked up from Thanksgiving. So you can eat yourself silly again on Christmas and New Years and then have the whole dreary month of January to lose that weight so you will be all slim and trim again for the new Jeepin' season. It works out great.....I hope.

Last time I told you I was saving a story for this issue in case nothing really interesting and exciting happened between then and now. Well it has been rather low key around here lately so I am cashing in my chips and pulling out the "saved" story.

It was a dark and stormy night, OOPS wrong story. It was really a nice sun filled day. Mrs. Chief and I were in the process of completing a project we are required to do about every ten years. Our house has cedar siding so about every ten years we have to wash the house and then reseal it. Now we are not as young as we used to be, needless to say, so the project takes a little longer than it used to. The other issue is we have a pretty big house. Back in the day we had five kids who filled up the house and it was just about the right size. Now it is just the two of us and the discussion of downsizing does come up coincidentally about every ten years.

Okay, moving on, we discovered during the last sealing adventure it was much easier and safer to reach the second floor areas using a man-lift. I have a friend who works at the man-lift rental store and he was more than glad to rent me one. This baby was top of the line. A 45 foot boomed, four wheel drive, articulating boom, 16,000 pound, diesel powered lifting machine. It had 40" "mudders" and locked differentials. I couldn't wait to get it off the trailer and on the job. My first objective was to get the family room wall washed down. Oh, I forgot to relate how super cheap I really am. We have one of those swimming pools that have the inflated collar and as you fill it up, the walls go up with the water. It is 18' in diameter and 4' deep. It's a lot of water. Water I paid for back in the spring when I filled it up. Solution, a cheap submersible sump pump attached to my pressure washer and Walla! Free water.

Now the story gets interesting. It had been a really wet fall in our area. We were late getting started due to some life situations so we really felt under the gun. I maneuvered the behemoth to the back of the house and began washing the wall. It was going great. I got it done in record time. I was actually ahead of schedule. I just need to move the machine over about ten feet to reach one more area and the massive wall will be done. Did I say it had been a wet fall? I know you all know that feeling when you are on the trail in the deep mud and you feel your Jeep just kind of drop with that sinking feeling and you just know you are in trouble. Well let me tell you when you are operating a man-lift from the bucket, 15 feet off the ground, it is magnified just a little. Those 40" mudders and those locking differentials can really dig some big ruts in a short amount of time until the frame contacts the ground. Movement then seems to just suddenly stop.

You can still go up and down in the bucket, just not forward or backward or anyplace you really want to. Okay, this bad boy is more than stuck, it is buried. It is buried in a place that I can't get anything to pull it out and there are too many trees to get a Chinook Helicopter to come pluck it out of the mud. Pardon my language, but I knew, I was screwed. How in the world am I going to get this thing out? Mrs. Chief came out, looked at me looked at the machine, looked at me and just went back into the house. She wasn't mad or anything like that, she just knew, like I knew, I was screwed.

Who could I call to give me some hope or at least a new perspective of some possible hope. I took out my phone and called the one whom I have shared many a stuck situation with in the past: John, my son. Being the good son that he is he dropped everything and came immediately. As he approached, he had a little smile on his face and asked, "What's wrong?" I looked at him and asked politely, "Are you blind? This thing is buried, I have nothing to get it out and I really don't want to have to buy this thing. I am pretty sure my Jeep or truck won't touch it." He replied, "You can't stick one of those things." I replied, "Excuse me, I think I did a pretty good job sticking 'one of those things'". "Does the bucket still operate?" he asked. Venting my frustration I retorted, "The bucket is not the problem, the tires not moving the machine forward or backward is the problem." "Let me show you something, we used to stick these things all the time when I built houses," he said.

My yard is blessed with many trees, so after getting some ramps from my trailer to put under the tires to spread the load, he began to push the machine forward by using the boom against the a tree. Moving the bucket from one tree to another the machine was able to finally get a grip so those mudders and locked differentials could take hold and drive right out. In less than half an hour I was back in business. My yard has some issues now, but nothing that my new John Deere with a bucket can't fix. Yes, I was forced to buy it just to fix the ruts. It's all good and the house looks great.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas. It won't be long before we will be riding the trails again.

See Ya on the Trail

Chief

A little humor:

Is it my imagination, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

'Tis the Season

By Karl Anderson

It's that time of year again.... Eat too much... Spend too much... Make resolutions for the New Year that you have absolutely no intention of keeping... Oh, is that just me? Somehow I doubt it.

One thing I like to do this time of year, besides chasing deer that can see (or smell) me coming a mile away and watching all my hard earned money go out the chimney, is thinking about all the Jeeping I'd like to do in the upcoming year. I always have lots of ideas, some fairly reasonable and attainable, and some may as well be in the same category as me winning People Magazine's Most Handsome Man award. (Actually, last year I came in 3,398,346th right behind Larry King. I guess chicks dig suspenders).

Well, this year I may have actually come up with an idea that wouldn't be completely impossible to make happen. I'm sure some of you are aware that this past July the 4 Wheel & Offroad crew came through Pike County on their 2014 Ultimate Adventure. For those unaware, it's a week long trip they take every year where some magazine and industry folks along with a few lucky readers go from offroad park to offroad park, hitting a different one every day and driving in between and camping at night. For the most part, trailers aren't allowed. All the rigs have to be driven from place to place and breakdowns must be fixed at night for the next day or you miss out on the action.

My idea is since most of us will likely never get invited to run with the big dogs, how about an informal Ultimate Adventure for a few TRJC members? It wouldn't have to be for a whole week and we wouldn't have to have a strict no trailer policy. And if there were hotel rooms available and your odor is starting to offend even you, well, camping out wouldn't be required either.

There are several parks within a day's drive of Pike County in Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama. Or we could head to the southwest and hit some parks in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma or Arkansas. I'm sure we could contact some locals in each area to show us around. If we drove the first day, then wheeled a different park for 3-4 days and headed home we could do the whole thing in less than a week.

Does this seem like a reasonable goal to anyone else? I'm thinking the best time might be in September or early October right after we shut down our own trails. Not too hot, not too cold. And somehow I don't think being laughed at and called a rookie moron every time I got stuck wouldn't sting so bad if it was done with a southern drawl.

If anybody else likes this idea feel free to contact me at andersonkarl99@yahoo.com or catch me at a trail builder and we can discuss the possibilities.

Until then, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and hopefully we'll be seeing you in February!

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 **EAST** 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	14 th 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	4 th of July Run	9:00 AM
	25	Trail Builder	9:00 AM
Aug	6-8	17 th 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 – 15 th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari	
Aug 2016	11-13	2016 – 18 th Annual 4x4 Blast	



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

2015 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

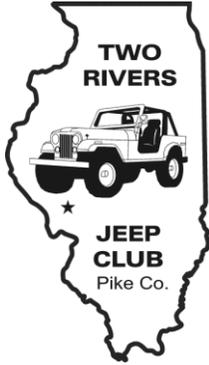
Do not publish my address in the club directory

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
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FIRST CLASS MAIL