



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 18 Issue 3

June 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.

June 20: Father's Day Run & Catered Dinner. Leave from WBBA at 9 AM for the trails. Black Oak will not be run this year due to a scheduling conflict but other trails will be available with an evening dinner to follow. Trails TBD. All members are welcome. RSVP to trjcjeff@yahoo.com or call the club phone.

July 11: 4th of July Run. Leave from WBBA at 9 AM. More details will be on the web site.

July 25: Trail Builder. Leave from WBBA at 9 AM. This will be our last trail builder before the Blast. We may need help on some of the trails so please attend.

August 6 – 8: 17th Annual 4x4 Blast. Registrations have been mailed. If you have not received yours, please call the club phone and we'll get you your discounted member registration form. Tell your friends as this will be our last public event for the year. More information is on the web site.

August 22: Member Trail Ride. No work! All fun. Meet at WBBA and leave at 9 AM. Trails TBD, as usual.

The Prez Sez

Lee Ator

The 2015 Safari is now in the book so to speak. We had a fantastic turnout, 320 event participants! Rain Thursday made plenty of mud a sure thing. Friday and Saturday had mixed weather, nice on some trails while others had more rain. Jenny Tate thought Ridge Rambler was maybe cursed as they got rained on both days. We had nice weather on Dutch Creek. The raffle and auction went well and so did the ice cream sales thanks to Dave & Lona Chandler. Over \$5600 was collected from the Raffle, \$560 from ice cream sales, and over \$1900 from promotional items. After the Blast, the Board will decide to whom and how to divide the proceeds. If you know of any Pike County organizations that might want a donation, please have them submit their request to Board in writing before October.



Blast registrations are out so once again tell your friends. BE THERE OR BE SQUARE. See ya on the trail!

Moving on--from my perspective Safari 2015 was a truly good time. Yes it was wet and muddy and it rained on us a bit but the brave souls who signed up for Murphy's Law did most excellent in handling all the challenges. It does get one's attention however when Jeeps are getting stuck on the road to the trail-head. Friday morning went pretty well, nothing that I can think of to report on. On Friday afternoon right after lunch we did have a bit of a delay as one little stretch gave us a



little more than we expected. We did sit for a while each Jeep maneuvered its way along but once we recovered from that glitch we were able to cover most of the remaining trail. We really didn't have any major mechanical issues on Friday. I think we might have lost one Jeep mid morning for mechanical reasons but Randy (aka Ghost Rider) Newport handled that situation and the rest of the line kept moving. One thing about Murphy's afternoon section is we have to go downhill to start and we have to go up hill to get out. This year due to some loss of land access to our usual trail head we had to start and finish at a new point. This scenario presented probably the biggest challenges of the day. Our proven tried and true extraction point was no longer available to us. On Friday there were showers on and off during the day which kept us on alert to what sections to run and what sections to avoid.

Upon my request, (what was I thinking) Murph got out in the lead while we were up on the high ground to find us a good path to go down. I had one in mind and I thought Murph was on the same page with me. OOPS, never assume anything. Murph found a downhill that did not look to bad for the first 200 feet. The problem was the last 100 feet was pretty much straight down. As I started down I thought, "Oh, this isn't too bad" then I saw the last 100' slide. As I was trying to steer to acquire a straight approach my Jeep went sideways and slid up against a tree ripping my roof on the driver's side along the roll cage. I was now sitting sideways on a downhill slope. I couldn't move any direction. I told everyone else to hold up and not follow me. Luckily the Jeep behind me was still in an area he could control his movement and he was winch equipped. We used a snatch block at a 45 degree angle off of a tree to pull by back-end around so I was headed straight again. Then we disconnected the winch line and I shot down the hill like an Olympic Toboggan. We managed to get the two Jeeps who were already committed to the downhill down safe and redirected the others to a safer location. It is funny because I had been looking at new tops just before the Safari. I like the ones with the tinted back curtains. That is about the only thing I miss from the old Chief's Buggy 1.0 version. Anyway when I got home I was able to patch it good enough until the next couple of social security checks come in. We used the Mystery Boys on the way out. They had an emergency exit which used that went really well. Saturday was a whole different story but that's for another time.



Saturday we were surprised that the trail was actually slicker than on Friday. Murph insists it did not rain Friday night and he swears he was up early with the NASCAR track dryer he bought with the "mud money" but it didn't do much good. We had a good group of Jeeps with us. We even had some first time Jeepers who were super impressed with our event. They might not have gotten the memo about attire however as they were all decked out in tuxedo T-shirts and sombreros'. We were blessed to have Karl Anderson and his lovely bride with us on Saturday. I hope Karl has an article to describe his experiences of the day. If not, call him and ask him why he doesn't have one. We also had a couple of veteran

Murphy's Law drivers, Devin and Tammy. I have attached an action photo of Devin while driving to help demonstrate the concentration a good driver must have while wheeling. This photo was taken as we were leaving the Legion parking lot en-route to the trail-head. Saturday went really well until it was time to begin heading out. Ghost Rider who declined the Can Opener late in the day because he didn't want to risk breaking something had his hydraulic steering bracket break while just driving on a super simple trail. It is amazing to me how Jeepers can come up with a quick fix on the trail by just using stuff. Two clevis and a winch cable and Randy was up and running. I should have gotten a picture. It was genius. About the same time Randy was having issues, I managed to lose the slave cylinder on my clutch. That made the trip out of the woods a little more interesting but we managed. The emergency exit I talked about earlier was not so accommodating this time. There was some winching and strapping and maybe a cuss word or two uttered under one's breath. There are a bunch more stories and adventures but I have already been a little long winded. The Safari was a good time. The attendees were great to work with and very generous in their support of the raffle and auctions. Thanks to all who came and to those who worked so hard to make it happen.

See Ya on the Trail

Chief

Words of Wisdom: If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhea... does that mean that one enjoys it?

I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use? Toothpicks?

In Memory, Todd Alan Whitaker

Todd was a Trail Guide on Mongo for several years.

Todd Alan Whitaker, 45, was called home to be with the Lord on Sunday, May 31, 2015 surrounded by his family and friends at his home after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

Todd was born July 13, 1969 in Decatur, the son of Marsha (Slifer) Whitaker. He graduated from Macon High School as a proud Ironmen and from Richland College nursing program. Todd found the woman he was meant to spend his life with in Robin Grace and they were united as one in marriage in Peoria on August 24, 1996. God blessed them with four, beautiful children. Todd's love for his children was overflowing which was evident by his constant presence in their lives. Todd worked as a Registered Nurse at Decatur Memorial Hospital where he made many life-long friends. He also worked for the Argenta-Oreana Fire Department as a fireman and EMT and was awarded "EMT of the Year" twice for Macon County. Todd was involved with the Special Olympics, a member of Two Rivers Jeep Club, and a member of Resurrection Life Church in Decatur where he committed his life to Christ through baptism.



Todd is survived by his wife, Robin (Grace) of Argenta; children: Grace, Daisy, Eben, and Remi, all at home; mother and father Marsha and Alan Baker of Macon, IL; sister Traci (Adam) Herbert and nieces: Chloe and Abby Herbert of Macon, IL; grandmother Barbara Baker of Cerro Gordo, IL; uncle Jerry Slifer; aunt and uncle Cheryl and Mike Blankenship; as well as extended family in Peoria, IL.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Virginia Luttrell; great grandparents, Edna and Gerald Dalluge; and grandfather, John Baker.

66th Illinois Secretary of State Vehicle Show and Swap Meet

TRJC members have been invited to join the show on **Saturday, September 12, 2015**, in downtown Springfield at the Capitol Complex. New to the show this year are classes for Jeep enthusiasts.

- J-1 Class: Jeeps... (all models) ...1940-1959
- J-2 Class: Jeeps... (all models) ...1960-1979
- J-3 Class: Jeeps... (all models) ...1980-1999
- J-4 Class: Jeeps... (all models) ...2000 – present

The car show is held rain or shine at Second Street and Capitol Avenue. First, second and third place awards will be given in more than 60 classes for cars, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, RVs and scooters.

All entries are parked on a first-come, first-served basis. One Marque Award celebrating the Chrysler will be given, and one Illinois State Champion will be recognized. Registration is \$15 per vehicle or \$25 after Sept.1.

To celebrate this historic event, special event license plates featuring the Dodge Challenger are available for \$20 per set. The show's registration tent will open at 7 a.m. and close firmly at 10 a.m. Judges will convene at 10:30 a.m. on the steps of the Illinois State Library for a quick meeting with judging at approximately 11:15 a.m. Awards are presented at approximately 4 p.m. Thank you for your interest.

For more information on the Illinois Secretary of State Vehicle Show and Swap Meet, please contact:

Secretary of State Vehicle Show Advisory Board
Michael J. Howlett Bldg.
501 S. Second St., Rm 450
Springfield, IL 62756
217-557-7220
217-557-7226 (Fax)
iryq@ilsos.net

2015 Board Members and Officers

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	Warren DeWolfe	warrendewolfe@gmail.com	630-849-8082
	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
Newsletter, Web, Mailings	Dave Christensen	dave102@bluesky9.net	630-886-6412

TRJC Web Page: <http://www.trjc.com/>
Club e-mail: trjc1@trjc.com
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: August 15

Two Rivers Jeep Club 2015

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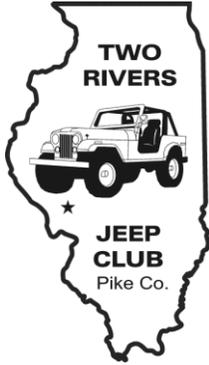
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Two Rivers Jeep Club
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