



Two Rivers Tracker

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

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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.

Trails to be run are to be determined. Check the web page for updates.

June 18: Father's Day Run and Catered Dinner. This is always one of our best member-only runs. As usual we leave from WBBA at 9 AM. We will run Murphy's Law and Capps canyon. Dinner will be at Williams. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be supplied. Kids can swim in the pond after dinner. After the run and before dinner we will all gather at the Can Opener for a memorial for Charlie Ater.

July 9: Fourth of July Run. Come help us keep our trails "warm". This is also a popular run with multiple trails. There is often a cookout afterwards. Again details to follow on the website.

July 23: Trail Builder. This will be our last Trail Builder before the Blast. These are always more fun than work. Join the fun!

August 11 - 13: 18th Annual 4x4 Blast. Member and non-member registrations were sent out June 1. If you did not get your member/helper registration form by the time you get this newsletter, please email or call us and we'll get the correct form to you.

Blast (and Safari) Changes

This year we had members using non-member forms and making changes to those forms to reflect their membership status. Some members were dropping off the forms in person. In some cases they even stopped by asked Kaye to print off forms for them. Kaye's first responsibility is to the Chamber and her work for TRJC is in addition to her Chamber duties. To ease the burden, please **mail** your applications to our PO box as listed on the forms. Also, members should not print the registration forms from the website. Those are for non-members only and reflect the non-member price. All members get a form in the mail with the club discount pre-printed on it. Please do not take any Blast registration form and change the amount to reflect the discount. This causes record keeping issues. If you don't get your member or helper form by the time you get this newsletter or there are issues with your member or helper registration, please email or call the club phone and we'll figure it out.

The Prez Sez

Lee Ator

The club had a good turnout for the 15th Annual Safari and everyone had a great time. As always, lots of familiar faces and some new ones attended. I guess that shows we are doing something right as people come back and bring new people. Warren & Amy DeWolfe had a mishap but I think he was just trying to talk Amy into a new Jeep. Really Warren, I would have waited until Saturday to wipe out the Jeep but no one was hurt so all is well.

The raffle and auction took in over \$5200. Over \$600 from ice cream proceeds will go to the Christmas food basket program. This fall the club will donate the funds. The hat was passed for the Carl Seymour memorial and it raised over \$500. We only have the funds to do good things thanks to a lot of people who donate their time and effort to make this event work..

Thanks go to Lilly Vittetow and all her helpers. Thanks to David & Lona Chandler for the homemade ice cream, to Eric Williams and his trail guides, and to Brian Kirby for the promotional items that raised over \$2600. There are people that work behind the scenes to help make this all happen: Dave Christensen, who prepares registration packages, mailing lists, and does mailings. Kaye Iftner gets the club registration mails, processes them, and sends out over 150 confirmations. Thanks especially to all who attended and made this Safari, and the previous 14, great times for all. I hope I didn't forget anyone. Hope to see you at the Blast in August.

2016 Safari and Sponsors

The Safari this year was limited to 150 vehicles total. This alleviated the standing room only at the dinners and also congestion on the trails. If you missed out on the Safari, sign up for the Blast coming in August. There is still time.

We wish to thank the following sponsors for the Safari. Without their help we could not have had such great results for the raffle. Raffle proceeds will be combined with the Blast proceeds and the Board will disburse the funds as donations to various groups in Pike County by the end of the year. Please thank these folks for their help and please use their businesses.

ACE Engineering
BDS Suspension
Frank's 4x4 Pittsfield Tires
Full Throttle Parts
Green Acres
Griots Garage
Halpin Napa Auto Parts Pittsfield
Heaton Chevrolet ATVs
Hyline Offroad
Jegs
Kaiser Willy's Auto Supplies
Lucas Oil
MagnaFlow
Northwestern Mutual
OverKill Off Road
Painless Performance

Pikeland Motors
PowerTank
Predator 4WD LLC
Randy's Auto Repair
Rugged Ridge
Shell Valley Wheels
SpiderWeb Shade
Stage 8
Steinjager
Superlift Suspensions
Teraflex
Tom Woods Custom Drive Shafts
Tub-O-Towels
Wade Real State
WBBA Radio

Larry Schultz 1940-2016

16 year TRJC Member: 1995 through 2011

By Graham McNeill, written May 13



A sad day today. My friend Larry (Tank) Schultz passed away last night following a hard battle with cancer. We will remember him as the ultimate park volunteer at the Cliffs Insane Terrain Off-Road Park making sure riders and their children stayed safe on the trails and in the parking area. Tank was at the Cliffs just about every weekend come rain or shine for the last 10 years in his Park Patrol Rhino.

Although he hadn't attended many Two Rivers Jeep Club events these past years, he will be remembered as a long time member that ran the Tech Check at all of the early Safari and Blast events. We will remember him as the first to offer welding help to anyone that asked and carried so many tools in his YJ that it often struggled up and down the hills.

We will never forget his crazy humor, his stories and his compassion for others. He will be surely missed. I am so proud and honored to have called him my friend this past 20 years. RIP Tank, I'll see you again on the other side.

Dennis Shoemaker Fund

Dennis Shoemaker is a trail guide on Myer's Mayhem and TRJC member for over 10 years. He was diagnosed with cancer a while back. It appeared to be in remission but it has recurred. He is the sole income earner for his family and to help compensate for his medical expenses and loss of income the club is setting up a financial help fund. If you wish to donate, you may contact any club officer at the next few events or mail a donation to:

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

Any help would be greatly appreciated by him and his wife. This is a difficult time for them and we can all help a little. Please keep Dennis and Fran in your thoughts and prayers.

2016 Safari (Wish I'd Been There!)

by Karl Anderson

The 2016 Safari was a great time for all. Well, except me. My stupid Jeep wouldn't run right even after tuning the stupid Holley Projection and then replacing the stupid alternator, then the stupid battery, none of which got me going because the stupid exhaust leak kept overheating the stupid starter so by noon Saturday we ate our stupid sandwiches and loaded up hit the stupid highway towards the stupid house.

(Actually, the highway and house both performed as they should but I was on a roll and didn't want to stop).

The alternator ended up being junk and went back to Napa. The battery also turned out to be junk and went back to Wal-Mart. Customer service at Napa was great as usual. Wal-Mart, not so much. After waiting forever at the



automotive department for the Grand Poobah to show up and approve the battery exchange we headed to the front of the store to the customer service department. If there's one positive about every trip to that little slice of heaven it's that you always get good ideas for a costume to wear if you're ever invited to a party where you're supposed to dress like your blind, insane, meth addicted mother dressed you. I do have to admit though that gender confused circus freak looking associate who handled my exchange actually knew how to do his job. Or her job. Never really did figure it out. Anywho.... Hopefully getting the exhaust leak fixed this week will end the terrible suffering I've endured recently and I can stop telling Amy "No, seriously, this will fix it." only to spend even more money a few days later because the last expenditure did in fact NOT fix it. But enough about me.

As is the case with all our public events, I saw lots of cool Jeeps and met some really cool people. And there was even one really cool rollover. I'm sure by now most of you have heard about Warren DeWolfe putting his JK Unlimited on its roof in a creek bed on Murphy's Law. What you may not know is how it happened. Was he conquering a previously unconquered obstacle with precision and skill known only to the most expert of all Jeep driving, trail conquering Super Human masters of the outdoors only to be bested by Mother Nature in the ultimate display of Man and Machine vs the Elements? Nope. He looked down at his shifter, got too close to the drop off and fell in the creek. Kinda kills the coolness of the awesome four wheeling tale don't you think? Oh well. The important thing is he and Amy (his Amy, not mine) are OK. Their Jeep on the other hand went to live on a farm like that puppy you loved as a kid that your parents secretly hated.



I honestly don't remember much else about the whole weekend worth talking about (or maybe my thumb is getting worn out. Pretty sure War and Peace wasn't written on an iPhone). Either way, hopefully our Jeep will be ready to rock after one more fiscally induced infraction on my marriage that my wife can use against me in divorce court. If you see us together at the Blast and my voice hasn't gone up about 50 octaves you'll know the old CJ is running like a champ.

Trail of Life

by Chief



Put it in the books. Another successful and fun Safari. We could not have ordered better weather. Okay enough of the clichés. On with the story.

I am told one of the biggest stories was the panic experienced by Gary "Murphy" Williams after he received my call on Thursday morning informing him due to some family situations I may not be able to make it to registration and there was a possibility I may not be able to make it at all!! Well the Jeepin' gods smiled on me and after waiting for some official decisions to be made on the home front I was cleared for takeoff and we headed west from home around 4pm. When I arrived at the Legion Hall, around 6:00pm everyone I met while making my way inside made some comment about Gary's emotional stress. I went inside and I could see Gary's eyes well up, but he held back the tears as he handed me the trail lists filled for both days. I was proud of Murph; I am pretty sure this was the first time he had manned the registration table by himself and he did an outstanding job. I really missed not being there for the registration. I missed the cerebral conversations Trent from Dutch Creek and I have while we sign up the anxious participants. I missed my free cranberry and vodka I always goad Murph into buying for me. I just missed the whole experience of the registration event. It is always good to see all the old friends and meet new one at the table.

The trails were dryer than I thought they would be. Western Illinois had not received near the rain we in the central part of the state received. We were able to cover a lot of trail and things went really smooth for the most part. We did have a little glitch on Friday morning but I will not elaborate on that other than to say the people on the trail did a most excellent job in dealing with the incident. The operation was nearly textbook, It made my job much easier. A big thank you to Randy Ghost Rider Newport and Jim Smith. I am sure someone will have a detailed account of the heroic ride either written about or told around the Jeoper's campfires for generations to come. RIP Mudbutt. It was a pleasure wheeling with you.

Another highlight of the Safari I discovered on Saturday evening during dinner. While we were trying to determine who had earned the Eugene the Jeep award for the Saturday run we could not come up with anyone who did anything Eugene worthy. The entire group handled the trail like old pros and it was just a nice and enjoyable ride. Then I heard about a couple of guys who had traveled 30 hours each to attend the Safari. One was from Taiwan and the other from Australia. Yes, we are world famous. Anyway Randy, Murph and I decided they had done something extraordinary that was Eugene worthy. The problem was we only had one Eugene to give away and two 30 hour travelers. Another moment of negotiation and we pulled one of the auction Eugene's so each could have a tangible memory of the fun they had while on Safari. I will have to say they were both very conciliatory and I had to admonish them to work with me while I got approval for the second Eugene to be given to them. It was a great to see the excitement these guys expressed. I hope they are able to come again.

That's about it for this ride. I would like to thank all those who attended the Recovery Class on Saturday the 4th. I hope those attending got something from the class that will help them and the club in the future. And thanks for Murphy who lead the trail ride following the class. I got to be tail gunner for the whole time. A whole different view than what I am used to.

See Ya on the Trail

Chief

Another Great Safari

by Warren DeWolfe

I hope everyone is enjoying the beginnings of Two Rivers Jeep Club wheeling season. We have gotten off to a great start and things are looking good for it to be a better year than how it has been so far. We got off to a rough start as a club, with the passing of a long time member and land owner Carl Seymour. The club caravanned together out to New Salem to pay our respects to him and his family. I know I will miss chatting with Carl on Face book and the few times I would see him at his house either for wood cutting excursions or when we would stop by. Then the club got hit with another rough blow finding out that another member and trail guide was hit with the news that his cancer is back! We all are keeping Dennis in our daily prayers and we are trying to help raise some funds with their expenses. So please keep an eye on the club Face book page and web page for updates and information.

Now on to the lighter side of things, we just had the annual Safari and Amy and I were all excited for our weekend in Pike County with family and friends. This trip was rough from the get go! On the trip down just outside of Bloomington the rear axle shaft snapped and left us stranded until Brandon Douglas could come grab us with his trailer. Then that left us scrambling Thursday night to find an axle shaft so we could run the trails. Thanks to Frankie Smith he hooked us up with an axle shaft to get us back moving. Thanks to Zac Pruett and his wife Cammie for running around with us for parts and getting it put together! So the day that started out rough was getting brighter!!!! Friday was a great day to be wheeling, not too hot and no rain!!! As always it is great to see old friends and to meet new ones. After Eric's inaugural doom and gloom speech as the new trail coordinator we were off! So Amy and I headed out to Murphy's Law for the day.....

Here is where it went bad! We were on the trails for about an hour and I did the one thing we are told to never ever do! I took my eyes off the road and looked down (for the love of God I don't know why) and when I heard Amy scream "Not that way!!" I looked up and the front driver's wheel was going off the trail and we were going over! This all happened from when I looked down and Amy screaming that at me was about 2 seconds! So Mudd Butt took about a 7' drop onto her head. I have to say the folks with us that day were outstanding in jumping to action! Jim Smith was the first one to us, he reassured us and made sure we were okay. Thanks to Chief and Randy Newport who took complete control of the situation and made sure everyone was doing what needed to be done to make sure we were safe and to help get Mudd Butt back on her feet. Needless to say the Jeep had to be strapped out and pulled back to Virginia's. There she sat for the next few weeks until the salvage yard could come and get her. It was a bittersweet goodbye as Murphy's Law was the first trail Amy, I and Mudd Butt went on when we first joined the club back in 2012. It was also the last trail she went on until her demise.



Well thankfully it only took two weeks and we were ready to get back on the trails. We managed to take Lilly's little TJ off her hands and Lilly and Mark were gracious enough to trust me with her. Little do they know how much I love my skinny pedal and just giving everything that "just one more time" attitude. I go this weekend to pick-up a trailer so I can finally become a Jeeping adult and haul my Jeep like a big kid. Amy and I cannot express enough gratitude and thanks to Chief, Randy, Jim, Devon, Eric, Brandon, Virginia, Frank, Lilly, Mark and everyone else out on the trail that day and since who helped to make sure we were safe, we got back up and on the trail, got Mudd Butt stripped of usable parts and shipped off and got us to our new trail rig. We thank God that we both were kept safe during the flip, and that's the most important thing as a Jeep can be replaced. Now we are able with the payout to pick up a new rig, trailer and maybe even get momma her own little Jeep to get around town. Until next time on the trails!

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Pittsfield IL 62363-0047



FIRST CLASS MAIL