

Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 19 Issue 6

December 2016

The Prez Sez

Lee Ator

I write this on Dec.7 so I think of dad's cousin that I am named for. He was 19 when the Oklahoma capsized with him still on board. If you know a WWII vet take time to thank them. There are only a few left.....or any other vet you might know. We need to thank them all. Remember, the Jeeps we love to wheel in were first built for the Army. And speaking of Jeeps, I got started working on mine 2 weeks ago but I still have a lot to do before February.

Most important, however, is to remember the reason for this Christmas season when a baby boy was born in barn to a peasant girl of no more than 15. But what message that baby Jesus brought to the world of love, peace, and forgiveness!! *May that bright light shine from all our hearts and homes all year long.*

See you on the trail in February.

2017 Membership Renewals Reminder

2017 TRJC renewals are due. **Existing members should have received a renewal form in the mail and have sent it in by now.** If you have not received your renewal form please use the form in this newsletter to send in your renewal today. Renewals should have been sent in by December 1. If you wish your name included in the directory you must have your renewal sent in and received by the club Secretary no later than Dec. 31. Please note for Trail Guides and other helpers - you **MUST** submit a renewal form even if there is no renewal fee or you will not be allowed to participate as a helper or guide due to insurance requirements. If you have not yet received your membership card or there is any question of your membership status, please contact Warren DeWolfe, club Secretary. His, and other officer's contact information, is on page 4.

"Constant Contact" Update

By Jeff Sorensen

As mentioned in previous emails and newsletters, starting in 2017 if you wish to receive notices and newsletters via email only, you will need to sign up. Please follow the instructions given in the Constant Contact email you may be getting from the club if you have a valid email address on file. These same instructions will be posted in that email. All names from 2016 will be removed so you will have to sign up again for 2017 via the Constant Contact email if you want electronic copies only. This electronic delivery only applies to newsletters and other club notices. Registration forms for the Safari and Blast will be sent via paper mail. If you have not seen any emails from the club we may not have a current valid email on file. If so, and you wish to participate, make sure you have your email correct (and legible) on the renewal form or send an email to trjceff@yahoo.com with your request. This email program and potential distribution of newsletters electronically is entirely voluntary so if you do not register via the email we sent you, you will still get the newsletters via paper mail. As always, any official notices will be posted on the web page.

Any questions about the use of Constant Contact should be directed to trjceff@yahoo.com

Raccoon Wars Redux

By Chief

Life has managed to keep me busy the last few months. I know, it sounds like a broken record but "it is what it is" as they say. Thinking I would have time this afternoon, I promised Dave I would get an article to him by 18:00 today, (the day of the deadline) but circumstances tend to change rapidly in my business and my schedule was rearranged for me today. That being said, I am a man of my word and I made a commitment to get Dave an article so I am cheating a little. Some of you who have been in the club for a while may remember my series of true to life accounts of the Raccoon Wars, a nearly yearlong battle of intense warfare between man and raccoon.

I have pulled one of the accounts from the archives from December 2005. I hope you find it acceptable. I promise will be more original next issue.

Raccoon War Episode One

As you might recall from my last column, I had another incident with my furry friends with the big black eyes and ringed bushy tail. I am happy to report however, the few rounds from my trusty pellet rifle that morning, must have discouraged any ideas the darling little critters had about the re-habitation of my residence.

I have had a raccoon trap baited and waiting now for several weeks and have only caught an unsuspecting cat. After that brief encounter, I began to think back on the "Raccoon Wars", and another chapter came to mind. So, as I have received so many comments about my absolutely true experiences, I thought for a Christmas gift I would provide another one for you. This is kind of like Star Wars, because I told you one of the last incidents first and am now telling you the first incident last.

Anyway, several years ago, while one of our daughters, Jill, and her three-year-old son Davon were staying with us, he would refuse to go to his bed at night. His reason was there were monsters in his room. He was always thinking of reasons not to go to bed so not much credence was given to his concern of monsters. One night about 2:00 o'clock in the morning my daughter came downstairs and woke us up to say there was a raccoon in Davon's bedroom. Yeah right, I thought. How could a raccoon get into the house? This was before I had the bathroom experience (Tracker August 2004). I now believe they can actually pass through walls. As I climbed the stairs in my bedtime attire (seems I am never fully dressed during these battles) and entered the room, there was a noise that sounded vaguely like a herd of cattle running through the outside wall. Our house has a wraparound porch and the roof structure provides an attic space which hits the outside walls about two feet up on the inside wall. What I discovered was a raccoon expressway all around the house in the porch attic. The little rascals had chewed through the cable tv outlet and went into the mattress and box springs which were pushed against the wall. I sprung onto the mattress and pushed it away from the wall exposing a gaping hole in the wall. Then I noticed the fabric on the box spring moving. I told my daughter to open the outside door at the bottom of the stairs, we were going to take the bed out.

With near super human strength, I wrestled the box springs and mattress down the stairs and out the door. Opening the fabric, we found three small raccoons neatly resting in the padding of the mattress. Davon immediately begins to shout, " I told you there were monsters. They licked my toes at night." Now the images come to mind of the dark ages where man and vermin shared sleeping quarters. That creepy feeling started to overcome us all. Yes, they were cute but cute only goes so far. They are cute outside, not inside, and definitely not in a mattress. Well, that is how it all started. As stated before, for the next ten months the battles raged. Victory was won for a time, but vigilance is the key. I know our defenses will be tested again, and we will be ready.

Words of wisdom for the Christmas season: The other line always moves faster until you get in it!

I pray you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

See ya on the Trail, *Chief*

6 Years, 6 Jeeps

by Andrew Bauer

2016 is coming to end. It's been a pretty good year on and off the trail. About a month or so before trail season I traded my yj for a lifted xj. Not really sure why, other than I have never wheeled the same Jeep more than one year. My smoking hot wife and I are about to start our 7th year in the club. And yes we will be wheeling a different Jeep this year.

In our 6 years I have wheeled 3 xjs, a cj7, a yj and a zj. My favorite one is probably a tie between my orange crush xj and the zj. I bought the orange xj at a time when money was pretty tight at our house. I had to sell my cj7 that I had rebuilt. I had enough money after paying bills to buy a beater rig. I picked it up from Bob Miller. It only started if you hooked 2 radio wires together and jumped the starter with a screw driver. So I handed him some cash and he delivered it to the shop. About 10 minutes later I had it starting with the key. The Dana 35 took a crap so I swapped in a Wagoneer 44. But not having any money I just left it 6 bolt wheels in rear and 5 bolt in the front. I sold the 33s that came on the Jeep in favor for some killer 31s. I had 2 mud brutes on the back and some random street treads on the front. It shouldn't have worked very well and to be honest it didn't but it sure was fun. The name Orange Crush came from the first time I brought it down. We were on the New Salem trail and just about done when we got to a small hill that I think only a couple people made it without winching. I was not one of them. My first attempt wasn't very eventful. Doug told me to back up and try again. So I backed up and tried and smoked a tree. I pushed the pillar over I would say a good inch or 2. This took out the windshield. We drove it the rest of the summer and fall like that. I put some old super swappers on it and my wife drove it in a mud bog when she was about 4 months pregnant with our youngest daughter. She went the 4th farthest out of 15 trucks I think. Most of which had v8s. I sold it a guy who wanted to get started in trail riding but he ended up selling it.

The zj made me look like I knew what I was doing. I bought it from my sister. And this thing was a tank. It had 2 inch spring spacers and 31 buckshot mudders. And as long as the tires were touching the ground it could go about anywhere. The outside mirrors had to be the toughest mirrors ever. Those things took a beating before they got ripped off. The rear bumpers however were not as tough. On the father's day run it ended the day strapped to the roof. Also that day I found out that my welds are stronger than the tubing I used for my stinger. We tried crossing this ditch. And well the front bumper and rear bumper were touching the ground and the tires were not. We tried pulling it out backwards to no prevail. So we had a bright idea to hook the tow rope to the stinger. We got out! I But it bent the stinger straight out. It made for really good seat. The people who owned the cars I parked behind didn't appreciate it much. At the Dogwood Parade in Quincy a chubby kid told me I didn't have a real Jeep. Guess who didn't get any candy. By the time I was done with it I don't think there was straight panel left. I felt like God was telling me to take break from Jeeping for a while. So I sold it.

So that brings me to 2016. This was my first year as trail guide. You can say we drove the wheels off the thing. Literally my wife and I had one fall off in the middle of town during the Blast. And 2016 was the first I time I brought my daughters on the trails down here. They were 2 and 9. And they loved it. A lot of you have met my son Willy Jeep. He has been coming down with me for a few years. At our house we live by 3 things: Faith Family and Four wheeling. If you read this before Christmas remember the real reason for the season. John 3:16 For God so loved the world. He sent his one and only son. That whoever should believe in him shall not perish. But have eternal life. Jeeping forever sounds pretty good to me. See you all next year on the trails.

2017 Board Members and Officers

Board Members

President	Lee Ator	tamara.ator@gmail.com	217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gswilliam@live.com	217-430-2314
Secretary	Warren DeWolfe	warrendewolfe@gmail.com	630-849-8082
Treasurer	Hamer Tate	hltate51@gmail.com	217-248-2951
Board Members	Karl Anderson	andersonkarl99@yahoo.com	217-440-8191
	Kaye Iftner	info@pikeil.org	217-285-2971
	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
	Jeremy Kirks	kirks736@hotmail.com	636-278-0398
	Eric Williams	elw_85@hotmail.com	217-248-4878

Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & <i>BLAST</i>	Lilly Vittetow	lillysvintage@gmail.com	815-218-3022
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Eric Williams	elw_85@hotmail.com	217-248-4878
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: January 15



Two Rivers Jeep Club

PO Box 47

Pittsfield IL 62363-0047

(630) 717-5337 or (866) 483-3982 email: trjc1@trjc.com web: www.trjc.com

2017 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

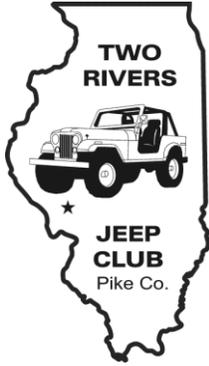
I wish to receive the newsletter and other club notices via email once implemented

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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