

News 2 Use

Happy 2005! This time of the year the wheelin' news is a little slow but we're already gearing up for the new season. A schedule of the 2005 trail building weekends and events is enclosed. We wanted to get this information out before the end of the year so those of you that need to put in for vacation time in early 2005 will know when the events are scheduled.

There are a few changes and additions to the events this year.

- The 4x4 *BLAST* is moved up by one week since some of the public schools are starting earlier. Entry fees for the Safari and *BLAST* will be the same as last year.
- The very popular Agriculture Field Day is again sponsored by TRJC. For those who did not attend last year, please try this year. It's a chance to let hundreds of kids see what our hobby is all about. Those from TRJC that attended last year had glowing reports. This is a perfect opportunity to give our hobby positive publicity. A related article is on page 3.
- A night run has been added July 9. People miss the night Halloween run but with the lack of students to prepare the event and also the beginning of hunting season, it just doesn't work anymore. Instead, OR has offered to coordinate this night run in July. If there are enough attendees and the weather holds, there may be a day run also.

As usual, these events and last minute details will be available in the newsletter and on the website.

Please note there are still member openings in TRJC. An application form is included. If you haven't renewed, please do so. If you have, pass along the registration form to anyone you know that might be interested in joining TRJC. The fee is a flat \$60. There is no longer a dual fee structure!

Thanks to the Seymours and Walstons for distributing Christmas Gift Baskets to the elderly and needy of Pike County. Each year this is an emotional time as tears are shed, not only by the recipients but also by the givers. And thanks to all of you in TRJC whose membership and donations support this worthy cause.

2005 Events

All events are subject to change. Check the newsletter and website for the latest information.

2005		TRJC Event	Location	Time
Jan	1	Club Run to Rockport Off-Road Park	Rockport Off Road Park	9:00 AM
Feb	5	Board Meeting	VFW, Pittsfield	7:00 AM
		Trail Building (Snow run if there is snow)		8:00 AM
		Kickoff Dinner And Auction		6:00 PM
	19	Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
	20	Registration opens for the Illini Safari		
Mar	5	Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
	19	Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
Apr	2	Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
	16	Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
	29	Agriculture/Conservation Field Day Sponsored by TRJC (Rain date: May 5)	Perry	9:00 AM
May	7	Board Meeting	VFW, Pittsfield	7:00 AM
		Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
		Appreciation Party	Rockport Off Road Park	6:00 PM
	19	Registration opens for the 4x4 <i>BLAST</i>		
	19-21	4th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari	American Legion, Pittsfield	3 PM Thu
Jun	11	Board Meeting	VFW, Pittsfield	7:00 AM
		Miller's TNT Farm Father's Day Run		8:00 AM
Jul	9	Night Run	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 PM
	30	Board meeting	VFW, Pittsfield	7:00 AM
		Trail Building Weekend	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
Aug	11-13	7th Annual 4x4 Blast	American Legion, Pittsfield	3 PM Thu
Sep	17	Better Late Than Never July 4th Run	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
Oct	8	Annual meeting	VFW, Pittsfield	8:00 AM
		Board Meeting		10:00 AM
		Ma Earth Run		10:30 AM
	22-23	Pike County Fall Color Tour	Pittsfield	all day
Nov	12	Board Meeting (2005 Event Planning)	VFW, Pittsfield	1:00 PM
Dec	10	Christmas Party	VFW, Pittsfield	5:30 PM

Sunday wheelin' on Trail Building weekends

Once again the Rockport Off Road Park will issue complimentary Sunday passes to TRJC members who participate on the Trail Building weekends. Thanks Tom & Debbie!

2004 Donations

Two Rivers Jeep Club is pleased to announce that \$7,000.00 in donations will be distributed to various charities, organizations and fire departments of Pike County this Holiday season. \$500.00 has been sent to the Pike County chapter of the American Red Cross, \$500.00 to Unmet needs, \$500.00 to the Farm Safety for Kids Program and \$500.00 to the Quanada House for battered women. \$1,700.00 has been earmarked for distribution of Christmas baskets to the elderly of Pike County and donations of \$300.00 each will be distributed to the Pleasant Hill, Pittsfield, Hull-Kinderhook, Griggsville, Berry, Baylis, East Pike, Spring Creek, New Canton, Pearl, and North Pike Fire Protection Districts or Volunteer Fire Departments.

In addition, club members recently replaced the roof of the VFW Hall in Pittsfield and will once again provide \$2000 to fund the Agriculture/Conservation Field Day in Perry. The club has donated in excess of \$17,000.00 this year alone to local charities. It has also given over \$20,000 to the American Legion for meals and the use of their facilities for two national 4-wheeling events.

Two Rivers Jeep Club is very grateful to the land owners of Pike and Brown Counties that allow free use of their land for club events. In return, the club is extremely pleased to be able to raise funds at their events for charitable organizations and communities.

Conservation Field Day 2005

By Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Adams, Brown and Pike County Soil and Water Conservation Districts would like to again express our gratitude for your funding last spring of our Conservation Field Day. More than 600 5th grade students from Adams, Brown, Pike, Morgan and Scott Counties attended our field day. We also appreciate the Jeep club members who brought their Jeeps and let the students get their class pictures taken by them. The Jeeps added a lot to our field day and I know they were a big hit with the students.

The purpose of the Field Day is to help students gain an awareness of agriculture, natural resources and how human interaction affects the environment around us. Last year the following subjects were presented: Rainfall Simulator, Ag Career Bingo, Bats, Beef Production, Biotechnology, Conservation Jeopardy, Drinking Water, Worm Composting, Edible Soybeans, Enviroscape, Farm Safety, Forestry, Illinois Wildlife, Lock and Dam Model, Macro Invertebrates, Fish ID, Project Learning Tree, Raptors, Soils, Stream bank Erosion, Swine Production, Water Game, Weather Station, Wildlife Habitat, Winter Survival, Mushrooms, Crop Production and Reptiles.

As in past years, our field day has great media coverage from our local newspapers: Quincy Herald Whig, Pike Press and Pike County Express. Every other year we usually have television coverage from either WGEM or KHQA in Hannibal/Quincy. All 3 papers mentioned the Jeep Club as financial sponsors of the event and the Pike County Express featured a front page picture of three Jeep club members standing with a couple of students in front of a Jeep and a headline reading "Jeep Club Keeps Field Day Going." Your funding is used for tent rental, lunch for presenters, portable toilets and donations to our volunteer groups that help. Volunteer groups include the North Pike EMTs, Central or Unity FFA Chapters and John Wood Community College.

2004 TRJC Christmas Party

By Becky Walston

We began our day with seven Jeeps led by Carl Seymour on a back-road excursion. Even though no one got stuck we did find a little mud and crossed a couple of open creeks. We saw a few wild turkeys and several Pike County whitetail deer. We returned to Pittsfield in plenty of time for the evening meal.

The Suhre family once again did a wonderful job of decorating the VFW while we were gone...it really looked festive.

The members of the VFW prepared chili and vegetable soup for supper, along with ham salad and grilled cheese sandwiches. We also had fabulous sweets to snack on made by Sharon Williams.

Approximately 35 people attended the party. We were sure glad to see that "Ma" Miller felt well enough to make the trip and enjoy the party with us. We also had several new faces this year.



The gift exchange was actually pretty calm this year...not a lot of trading. Guess everyone got what they wanted the first time.

The Santa Claus look-alike contest only yielded one contestant dressed in yellow with a yellow beard. (Wonder who that could have been?) The kids didn't seem to mind what color he was wearing, though, as he passed out gifts to each child that attended. Way to go, Santa!

Hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas...we'll see you all next year!



Trail of Life

By Chief

Deadline time almost passed me up again. Thanks to Dave's reminder I have managed to get this article finished in time for this issue. I am aware of several members and their families who are experiencing difficult times with health issues as well as employment concerns. As this information was not presented to me to include in the column, I would ask that you who are aware of members who are having these challenges please support them with prayers and calls and cards. I have not received any information to publish about members activities. I always give Dave permission to add to the column if he has information. I don't, so if there is nothing added, I guess he doesn't have anything either.

- *Last minute addition: Jude Fleeger recently returned from the hospital after surgery. Please keep her in your thoughts and if you have time, send her a get well card.*

But, I do have an experience to share with you which is totally the truth, as are all my articles I submit.

One morning while working our "dream job" of paper bundle delivery, (see Tracker, Feb. 2004 issue), we were stopped by a train crossing the tracks in front of us. (We have a route in which we can be stopped by the same train three times at different locations.) Anyway, we were stopped patiently waiting for it to pass. In front of us, on the four lane road were two cars parked side by side with two younger age drivers having a conversation with each other while standing out of their sun roofs. The conversation was apparently about the awesome sound systems each had invested in, as the conversation migrated from the sun roofs to the trunk of the cars to reveal the monster sub woofers which were shaking the train cars as they passed.

The distance between our Grand Cherokee and the car in front of us was probably twenty feet. I am always leery of parking too close to a speeding train after working a couple of derailments and seeing how far those train cars can get from the tracks. As the end of the train drew nearer, the two audiophiles returned to the cockpits of their respective vehicles. Finally, let's get this thing moving again I thought. Then I noticed a rather disturbing thing. The backup lights of the car in front of me were lit. Not a good sign. I mentioned to Linda she might want to hang on as I think we might be about to have a close encounter with the car ahead of us.

Sure enough as the final rail car passed the mental midget behind the wheel of the car ahead jammed the gas pedal to the floor and much to his surprise launched his vehicle squarely into the front of our Cherokee. Being a relatively calm and gentle person, I felt a rage beginning to build up in me. I must have displayed that look which Linda knows is not a good thing. I exploded out of the car, well, I did exit quickly and met my opponent at the point of impact. Looking at the impact zone I noticed only broken red tail light lenses. I looked at the front of the Cherokee and there was not a thing out of place. I looked again at his car and the bumper was imprinted with two gaping holes. Tow hook holes. Ye Haw, the assaulting vehicle had slid his bumper under ours and kissed the front tow hooks and stopped dead in its tracks.

"Dude, you broke out my taillights!" "Excuse me?" I replied. "Well I thought I had it in 1st," "I think not!" "What are you going to do?" he asked. "Well, I think I am going to back up and just 'keep on trucking', Dude, unless you would like me to call the police and have them ask you how this happened?" "No, no that's okay. I can always fix a taillight." "Works for me, drive safe!"

Question, are tow hooks necessary on a vehicle which will see very limited off road activity? Absolutely! They definitely saved me some serious front end damage. Thinking back, it sure is amazing how these things always seem to happen just in time for a Tracker issue, but I swear it is a true story.

See Ya on the Trail
Chief

2004 Off Road Color Drive

By Tom Miller

Well another TRJC event has ended. Even though there were some changes this year, I would have to say it was another club success.

The major change this year was our location. With safety concerns about pulling on and off the highway, Tom & Debbie Wombles stepped up with an offer to use Rockport Off Road Park and the building facilities to host the fall color drive.

This also addressed another concern about the cost of renting a tent to set up in and porta-potty's for drivers and participant's comfort. As an added plus the building is heated. These concerns needed to be remedied in order to continue this annual event with success.

Now on to some details: We gave 100 rides to paying participants Saturday and Sunday and that was accomplished with only 11 Jeeps on Saturday and 7 Jeeps on Sunday. Needless to say, the club members that volunteered ran pretty much non-stop to keep things moving. And there were people waiting for a ride a good part of the time. Over \$500.00 was donated. This year's donations went to the Color Drive committee to help in supporting the cost of all the advertising and P.R. that the committee does to promote Pike County's color drive activities through out the county.

We had many new participants this year as well as a number of folks that have enjoyed a ride with us every year we have done the color drives. I know some of these folks drove over 3 hours just to get a ride with us. There was nothing but excellent comments from the participants this year. They had their choice of views and optional trail sections to enjoy, but they did have to request a short trail ride. This method was received with a great response this year as they only got what they asked for after the required warnings of what to expect.

We also had some good coverage with WBBA radio, Pike Press and Pike County Express. They all showed up to do interviews on top of the great P.R. and press coverage before the event.

We had a range in ages from babies to some in the 90s. A few notables were Harry Wright and his wife, Bonny and Floyd Wombles, Virginia Williams and Dora Lee Claus just to name a few (actually there were so many and I lost my list of names, shame on me).

As far as weather goes it was just fabulous! Saturday was sunny, just a little windy with temps in the upper 50s. Sunday was sunny, no wind and temps in the 60s. Just fabulous!

Now on to name those who helped out with this success. For drivers, we had Chad & Frannie Suhre & kids, Cary & Janet Levoy & kids, Dennis (Fuzzy) & Micaela Anderson, Tom Miller & Dad, Doug Maxheimer, Chuck Rieker, Gerald Bennett, Walt Gilbert, Gary Williams, Diana (Rusty) & Ruth Murphy, Alan & Nanette Applebee and NEW MEMBERS: Rodney & Kelly Knoll, Norm & Debbie Parsley, Jimmy Peek & Jamie. A special thanks to Tom & Debbie Wombles for the use of the park, and to Sharon Williams & Kelly for the wonderful homemade chicken & noodles, cookies and brownies they made to provide lunches for the drivers.

As I know you've heard before, this could not have been accomplished with out the volunteers that have stepped forward to help in these events. This participation is paramount in our clubs success in any of our events and projects. As Carl so strongly voiced at our annual meeting, we need more help. Please consider volunteering for some of these events and projects. You'll enjoy it!

Pike County's Color Tour

by Rusty Murphy

Because of my son's athletic schedule, I was not able to participate in the past years' color tours although it always sounded interesting. But, at this last annual meeting, Jenny Tate was telling me about all the fun stuff that happens and as the son is in college – now was the time to participate.

So, I hauled my daughter and the Jeep to Pittsfield Saturday morning (beginning at 4 a.m. – daughter really loved that!) The weather was lousy, but we were doing this. Arrived at RORP and the weather had cleared up to a beautiful, sunny day with a cold wind. We were shown the route to be used and I offered my daughter the chance to drive so she could earn her lunch – the deliciously famous chicken noodle casserole. She declined and so did some homework and snoozed in the truck. Two ladies I drove were from Lincoln, IL, and thoroughly enjoyed the Jeepin' experience. Another family group had requested more of a trail experience, so several Jeeps went out. My shotgun was a 6 or 7 year boy that never let go of the grab bar with his younger sister and Dad in the back seat. The sister was quiet and grinned a lot and the Dad was amazed at what our vehicles were capable of doing.

At the end of the day a club member offered his yard to keep my Jeep and trailer for the night (thank you) as our hotel was in Springfield (also visited my brother there) and we were coming back on Sunday to do the driving tour. We started at Griggsville, went to Time and ended up at Pittsfield's square. There we had the chili recommended by Jenny and provided by her church. Good food.

My daughter and I had a terrific weekend enjoying Pike County's wonderful people and events and promoting our often misunderstood sport. **Thank you to those club members that coordinated and worked this weekend.**

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members to the club. Send them some email or make an effort to say hello to them next time they attend one of our events.

Debbie & Norm Parsley, Peoria, IL - 00XJ - nwpars@insightbb.com

The next newsletter will have a more complete list, so if you joined and don't see your name this month, look for it in next time.

January 1 Run at RORP

Tom and Debbie are sponsoring a great New Year's Day run at their park. They've got a number of fun events lined up. The cost is \$15/adult and \$12/child. Call them at **217-437-5337** to make reservations for a great time!

2005 Board Members and Responsibilities

Board Members

President	O. R. Freesen	oryellow@hotmail.com	217-754-3505
Vice President	Lee Ator		217-437-5221
Secretary/Treasurer	Graham McNeill	madbrit@jeepingoffroad.com	630-416-6625
Board Member	Jim Catt	riddle01@comcast.net	815-469-1484
	Walt Gilbert	waltpj@big-river.net	573-324-6464
	Durrell Miller	dmiller@weldtechcorp.com	630-258-1124
	Tim Miller	jeepnwidow@home.com	217-875-2680
	Hamer Tate		217-833-2861
	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750
	Tom Wombles	twombles@adams.net	217-437-4361

Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & Blast	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
Promotional Items	Chad & Fran Suhre	suhresp@myhtn.net	217-742-9818
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Maxheimer	drmaxheimer@netzero.net	217-287-7470
Public Relations, Newsletter, Web	Dave Christensen	davec@millenicom.com	630-393-3314

TRJC Web Page: <http://www.trjc.com/>
Club e-mail: trjc1@trjc.com
Club phone: 630-717-5337 (JEEP)

Membership: Annual membership in Two Rivers Jeep Club runs from January 1 through December 31. First time memberships accepted after June 1 will be applied to the following year. Annual Membership dues are to be paid by October 1st each year with a 30 day grace period. Membership fees are \$60.00. Landowners are given a 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 column correspondent or 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.

Next Newsletter Deadline: January 31



2005 TRJC Membership Enrollment Form

Name: _____

Nickname/CB Handle: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone (optional): _____

Cell Number (optional): _____

E-Mail Address (optional): _____

Jeep Model/Year: _____

- Membership application type (check one):
- New Member - \$60.00
 - Landowner - \$0.00/yr.
 - Regular Family Membership Renewal - \$60.00/yr.
 - Trail Guide/Special Club Volunteer - \$0.00/yr.

I hereby release the Two Rivers Jeep Club 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 Rivers Jeep Club event.

Furthermore, by signing this form, I certify that I am 18 years of age; my vehicle is street legal and properly insured according to the laws of the State of Illinois.

Applicants Signature:		Date:
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NOTE: Dues are subject to the current schedule and are **payable October 1** of every year. Any member who is in arrears for thirty days or who is indebted to the club treasurer for a period of thirty days following the incurrence of such debt shall be no longer in good standing and subject to expulsion from membership.

NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO HAVE YOUR ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER PUBLISHED IN A CLUB DIRECTORY, PLEASE CHECK HERE:

OFFICE USE ONLY

AMOUNT REC'D: _____ CASH OR CHECK # _____ DATE: ___/___/___ REC'D BY: _____

Return To: Two Rivers Jeep Club, 28W117 Countryview Drive, Naperville, IL 60564

Two Rivers Jeep Club
C/O Graham McNeill
28W117 Countryview Drive
Naperville IL 60564

