



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 7, Issue 1

February 2004

Pike county now has 911 service. If there are any trail emergencies requiring police, fire or EMT services, you no longer have to figure out what number to call or what county you are in. 911 service is active in all the counties we have trails. Bear in mind that cellular service may be sporadic in some locations. The old numbers published on the yellow cards we provided in the past will still work but 911 is now the preferred way for emergency calls.

Upcoming Events

Dave Christensen

February 21, March 6, 20, April 3, 17: Trailbuilding, 9AM, VFW, breakfast served.

The Rockport Off Road Park has generously made their trails available, free, on Sundays to TRJC members who attend the Saturday trailbuilding weekends.

With changing weather conditions, there may be changes and even cancellations to the trail building weekends. Check the website, www.trjc.com for last minute changes. We'll try to get the changes up Wednesday, but sometimes a decision may not be made until as late as Thursday night. If you are not online, see if you can find someone in the club who is and they can pass along updates as needed.

May 1: Tentatively, we will use this work weekend to provide a class in advanced recovery techniques. Trail guides and helpers will be required to attend. We will probably open the class to a limited number of TRJC members also, but we need to keep the class size manageable. Three or four recovery scenarios will be covered. The last scenario will be done in conjunction with the Pleasant Hill Fire Department. We'll have them and the EMTs arrive, as part of a dry run, to help with a simulated severe accident. Plans are tentative at this time, but we wanted to provide advance notice so guides and helpers can plan on attending, if possible. Questions on this can be referred to Dave Christensen.

2004 Illini 4x4 Safari

Dave Christensen

The Safari is set for May 13 – 15. Registration forms for volunteers and TRJC members will be sent out by February 10, one week ahead of public registration. If you do not get your registration form by the 13th or 14th, call Angela at the Pike County Chamber of Commerce (217-285-2971) and she'll get you the correct form. The Safari fills early so if you want to attend, please get your application in as soon as it arrives.

2004 Safari and Blast Volunteers

Dave Christensen

Our two public events are an incredible amount of work. Hundreds of hours are spent on the over 150 separate tasks that need to be completed in order to make these events run smoothly. These events, and the good they do for the community (not to mention the fun we have...) could not happen without many volunteers.

The following are the names we have for volunteers for 2004. If your name is here, you should know what you are doing – if not - call the event chair, Rick Culberson, 217-562-4145 to find your assignment. If you have been already contacted about helping and your name doesn't appear on this list, please contact Rick also so we can correct the list or add your name to the volunteer list for next year.

Andersen, Dennis
Ator, Lee & Tammy
Baker, Brian
Ball, Heyward
Bennett, Gerald
Brownlee, John
Bullard, Randy
Catt, Jim
Christensen, Dave
Coleman, Ray
Culberson, Rick
Dieken, Jeff
Finson, Wayne
Fleeger, Jude/Frank
Fotta, Stuart
Freesen, OR
Fugett, Bridget
Gambrill, Steve, Linda
Gilbert, Walt
Goodman, Lou & Paula
Huebner, John
Johnson, Elmo

Kinne, Mark
Knoles, Trent
Laurich, Craig
Leech, Ed/Lisa
Levoy, Carey
Lovstad, Bill
Lozenski, Ardis
Lozenski, Deanna
Lyerla, Bob
Maxheimer, Doug
McEvers, Sam
McNeill, Graham
Mikrut, Bob
Miller, Durrell
Miller, Rick
Miller, Tim
Miller, Tom
Murphy, Diana
Niles, Pete
Olson, Craig
Plesko, Jim
Priessnitz, Kris

Prochaska, Tony/Andrea
Rieker, Chuck
Ruble, Angela
Schultz, Brad
Schultz, Larry
Seymour, Carl
Shadwick, Garry
Smith, Frank & Jim
Suhre, Chad/Frannie
Tate, Hamer/Jenny
Toumbs, John
Tweedell, Mark
Walston, Billy
Walston, Don
Wencel, Dennis
Whitaker, Todd
Whitaker, Randy
Williams, Gary
Winckler, John/Mo
Wombles, Tom/Debbie

2004 Kick Off Dinner and Auction

by Durrell Miller

This year's Kick-off dinner was just a great time for all 50 that attended. The day started out with a breakfast provided by the VFW and was tasty, as always, and helped get us getting ready for the day's activities. Tom and Debbie Wombles again opened up their property and park for snow covered adventures. About 30 brave souls got to the trail head to start the white adventure – almost all of them under their own power. Jim and Lisa Catt had to be towed by not one, but **two** Jeeps 'up' to the trail head. Way to go Jim!

This writer did not attend the adventure that day, but stayed for warmth by invitation of Tom and Debbie in their cozy building. At the dinner I was told that Jim Catt found the only mud hole under the ice and it flowed into and onto passenger Lisa where a door should have been. Way to go Jim! We also had a new member, with a new Jeep, who now has a new crinkled fender. Welcome to the club!!

Robert and Michael Kafka shared driving for the day and received the most stucks and winches. They are not sure who got the most, but enjoyed the snow and ice. It was Kim Miller's birthday weekend so Tim stayed off the trail. Thanks Kim!

The chicken dinner was delicious with the leftovers being auctioned off. We again had the donated services of the professional auctioneer Bob Evans. The donated items were auctioned off with a lot of fun. Baked cookies by Sharon Williams were purchased by Doug Maxheimer and shared with the crowd. Thanks Doug for sharing.

A Tom Miller drawing was fought over by Jenny Tate and this writer. Jenny was gracious to wait for her turn until next year. Kim Miller and Garry Shadwick both wanted a 1940 antique glass candy holder of a Jeep donated by Tom's mother. No, Tom did not play with this as boy. (We all know it would be broken if he did.) All I can say, is never go up against Kim on her birthday weekend!!

Many items were auctioned **with \$1,250 raised and donated to the Mounted Angels.**

TRJC has grown over the past 11 years to be more than a 4-wheeling club. We are what makes America great: a caring community minded, giving group of friends and family. I enjoyed the weekend and had a wonderful time with friends and family. We are truly a family.

Durrell

PS: I got a Harley-Davidson Super Glide for Christmas from my wife. Yea me.

[Publisher's note: I can hardly wait to see Durrell out on the trails with his Hog. Hope he's got tow hooks.....]

Jeep "Rescue"

Submitted by Sparky



The nonsense never seems to slow down in Detroit. That's right. Hummer and Jeep are at it again.

You may recall, just before the popular H2 Hummer came out, that Jeep took GM to court claiming that the H2 got its grill from Jeep. After Jeep lost this battle, and a judge allowed GM to continue production of the H2 (grill intact), they went to the TV commercials and print to fight it out, the newest of which is a commercial where the Hummer look-a-

like gets stuck in the mud when a little girl in a Jeep drives (pedals) by, only to say, "If it's not trail-rated, it's not a Jeep 4x4."

Now, in a turn of events, GM is taking shots at Jeep stating that the new Jeep "Rescue" is a

copy of their popular H2. Jeep executives are quick to point out that they have been around for 60 years. But, they really do have similar background and upbringing. Let's remember that Hummers started (in 1971) in the military, too. I am sure this battle is far from over, and the two companies will continue to throw the preverbal "mud" at each other. Temperatures will surely rise when GM releases the new H3 next year (expected to be in the \$30,000 range). This will be Hummers first entry into the fastest growing portion of the SUV market, with an attractive price tag that will challenge Jeep's Grand Cherokee. If Jeep brings their new concept "Rescue" into production, it will be a visit back to the days of the Grand Wagoner, when there was such a thing as too big. But now that the rules have changed, hopefully so will Jeep's luck! One thing is sure. The competition should be fun to watch! Go Jeep!!~



Newsletter deadline:

The next newsletter will be printed March 18. This means all articles are due no later than March 15. This will be the last newsletter before the Safety Class and the Safari. Your articles must be in by the 15th. Late articles will not be accepted for this issue. Thanks!

Trail of Life

Submitted by Chief

As I sit down to begin writing this column, I find it amazing how quickly the deadlines seem to sneak up on me. I certainly thank Jude for giving me reminders when the column is due. I also thank those who have sent me items to include in this issue. It certainly makes it easier when I have something to share.

I don't want to keep harping on how great retired life is, but I do have a recent experience I would like to share with you. My wife and I have been retired long enough now to be over the euphoria of not having to "go to work". For those who don't know, we both retired from Ameritech a couple of years ago. I still work at the Harristown Fire Department as Chief, I am involved in several state fire organizations and sit on various committees. I am also involved in our church outreach programs, ministering in assisted living and nursing homes. I have found I am much busier now than when I worked, but it is a "fun busy". Something I want to do, not have to do. My wife has managed to keep busy with grand kids, her elderly mother and working over our house since all of our five kids have ventured out on their own. Life is good and a routine was set. Then it happened. In order to renovate our second floor where the kids lived before leaving us, a way must be found to supplement our "fixed income" to offset the cost of renovation---a job. What could we do? I'm set in my routine, I like how things are going. Well, enter a couple of my firefighters who are managers for the local daily paper. Jokingly they said in front of my wife, "We have a couple of bundle routes open." It was then I saw the look in my wife's eye. Maybe something she had missed in childhood, every kids dream of fortune, a paper route. She replied "how much?" A figure was quoted, wheels turning in her lovely head, "How much time will it take?" "Only a couple hours", was the reply. "Okay, we can do that" was her reply. Here is the kicker, The couple of hours is 2:00 A.M. to 4:00 A.M. My previous reluctance about seeking other employment for the renovation project was I didn't want to upset my routine I had established. The beauty of this opportunity is, it only interrupts sleep. I'm used to that. I have had my sleep interrupted for the past 37 years when the fire pager went off in the middle of the night. So once again we have joined the productive, money making, tax paying segment of society, enjoying the fresh night air, stuffing paper machines so the public will be informed of the latest news. And the best part, we get to work together with each other. A paper route. Bonding at its very best.

Concerns:

- Fred Bradshaw is recovering from recent heart surgery. Doing very well.
- I received information that Carl Redecker will be undergoing back surgery. I don't have any other information. *[The following note was received after Chief wrote this article. Please keep Carl and Nina in your thoughts - - and perhaps send them a get well card.]*

"I [Willyswoman] am having a double fusion of the lower lumbar on Feb.6th so Carl will be taking care of me for a while. I thought Chief could put it in his column and Carl will be having some surgery sometime too. Don't have a date on his yet. We won't get to ride the trails this year but aim to come up in May and maybe we can help with something then. This is very hard on the Willysman not to be able to drive the trails. Now me, I still get a little nervous on the trails, but I do enjoy them and the great people of TRJC. Thanks and hope to see everyone soon in May. *Carl and Nina Redecker*"

Walston Report:

- Pokey and Becky report their daughter Amy will be blessing them with their fourth grandchild.
- December 20th, Billy Walston and Jamye announced their engagement to be married.
- Pokey has a new run and will be home every weekend and available for more "wheelin" this season.

Congratulations to Bill and Gina Zoetvelt on the birth of their son, William James Zoetvelt, born 01-23-04 8:35 AM He was 7 lbs 12 oz and 21 3/4 in long.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her.
AND

The best way to convince a fool he is wrong is to let him have his own way.

Any information for TRAIL OF LIFE, contact Steve Gambrill, 396 N. Sunnyside Rd. Decatur, Il. 62522 or chief351hfpd@msn.com

See ya on the trail - Chief~

Bloopies

By Bill



It wasn't bad enough I became Sponge Screamin' at last years Safari on Black Oak. Not 20 minutes later Gina decided to become Sponge Still Screamin'. Boy were the kids wet and mad at us for the rest of the weekend!



Unless someone sends me something for next month, I'm thinking Rooster or a member of his family is next.

Payback is not Always a Bad Thing

Submitted by Screamin'

The date is October something, 2001, approximately midnight. I'm tired from working on my new house in Mokena IL for approximately 16 hrs straight. I'm driving home to my soon-to-be old house in Midlothian IL for some well needed sleep. I was on the road for about 4 minutes when the car in front of me decided to all but stop before he made his right turn. I passed this driver, but wasn't paying attention to the double yellow I just crossed. The problem here is that officer Colleen in the car behind me was paying attention. With that she turned on her squad lights requesting me to pull over. As many of us know, if you get pulled over by a lady police officer, the chances of talking your way out of it are slim to none, but I had to try. I explained that I left the home I was working on and was going to the old house to get some well needed sleep. She took my license and proof of insurance and went back to her squad. I waited for what seemed like hours, for my ticket. Three minutes later officer Colleen came back to my truck, handed me my license back and asked me to be more careful. No problem ma'am, THANK YOU very much was my response, wishing I had played the lottery that day because it was my lucky day! I always remembered Officer Colleen because she gave me a break when she didn't have to.

The date is October 24, 2003, approximately 11 PM. I'm watching some television in the living room when my cell phone rings. It's my neighbor Jose Alvarez, and he was asking if I wanted to go on a JEEP RESCUE. For all of you that know me, I'm always up for a good rescue. We jumped in my truck and headed for some not exactly legal place to find a Jeep stuck in the mud up to its axles. It was Jose's friend Ed and his wife Colleen.

They had just bought a new '03 TJ and decided to take it out for a test run (or so we were told). After some pictures were taken and some advice about this being why you don't go out wheelin' alone, we hooked him up to my truck and pulled him out. It wasn't until after we pulled him out of the hole that we started really talking. I was told that Colleen was a police officer in Mokena (you know where this is going, don't you?) I took a good look at her and remembered that fateful night in October '01. I told her she pulled me over two years ago and let me go. She remembered the event as well and was glad she let me go two years ago, considering the predicament she was in. Again I thanked her for not writing me up and told her paybacks weren't always a bad thing!~

The Misadventures of Seymour and Davis

Courtesy of Carl Seymour

Way back in '02, Barb and I met up with John and Joan Davis in Silverton, Colorado, for a week of trail riding during All-4-Fun. To give you an idea of how the week went, the following is a recount of the first day's adventure:

It was Cinnamon Pass that we'd just come down
As we headed on into "Old Carson town"
When I suddenly said, "Oh for heaven's sake,
This damned ole Jeep has a hot brake!"

So John and I pulled to the side of the road
And basically just sat there like a couple of toads
Until Barb and Joan rejoined the bunch,
Then we just took our time and ate up our lunch.

We'd told the others to show us no pity,
We'd limp off the mountain and into Lake City.
Once the brakes cooled, they were still rather weak
So Engineer Pass we dared not to seek.

The only way home (or so it did seem)
Was three hours by highway. But wait! We're redeemed!
At Blue Mesa cutoff we showed no hesitation
Not knowing it led to the Ute Reservation.

"No Trespassing" was what the sign read
And it made us fear for the hair on our heads.
Joan's eyes got big and she let out a yelp,
"I'm not ready to surrender my scalp!"

The rest of her time was spent looking over her shoulder,
In fear of what was lurking behind each large boulder.
But we made it across without being caught.
Apparently scalps that day were not sought.

We soon reached the highway and then we were all smiles,
As from our ordeal we'd trimmed many miles.
Upon reaching Montrose, we felt we were winners,
So we stopped at the Red Barn and all had good dinners.

Arriving back at camp, we knew we'd not failed
In setting a record for the length of their trails.

Moose Lodge Invitation to TRJC Members

Submitted by Pokey

During the months of Jan., Feb., and March the Moose Lodge #420 of Pittsfield will be offering membership at a discounted rate of \$30.00. (Normally \$50.00) This is a one-time sign-up fee that includes your first year dues. After that, your annual dues are \$30.00. Our local Moose Lodge has a weekly Friday night meal for \$5.00 per person. Beer costs \$1.25 and \$1.50 and mixed drinks are \$1.75 for most and \$2.10 for some. Soda is \$.75 a can.

There are two pool tables and a T.V. with games attached for the kids. Families are welcome, however kids are not allowed to sit at the bar. There are two other rooms with tables and chairs and one with a pool table and card table. (Usually a card game on Saturdays). High chairs are available.

They have holiday parties for the kids at Easter, Halloween and Christmas. They also have a D.J. occasionally if you like to dance.

One thing you might not know is that if you are a member of Pittsfield Moose Lodge #420 your card allows you access to ANY other Moose Lodge.

It's a great place to sit and socialize after a hard day of trail building. There are no requirements other than your annual dues. Stop by or call 217-285-9007 after 4:30 p.m. Make sure to tell them you are with Two Rivers Jeep Club. Or contact Pokey and he'll get the papers for you to fill out.

Two Rivers to Sponsor the 2004 Agriculture/Conservation Field Day

by Dave Christensen, once again pleading for help!

On April 23, hundreds of fifth graders will now have an opportunity to go to the U of I Agricultural Center in Perry to learn about soil and water conservation courtesy of Two Rivers. This popular program, in place for several years, was in danger of being cancelled due to lack of funding this year. Brad Smith, of the Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District, came to us and asked if we could help keep this program alive. Without hesitation, the Board voted to donate the \$2,000 needed to provide this program to the 500 – 700 kids in Pike, Adams, Scott, Morgan and Brown counties.

Here's how **YOU** can help: It would be great if we had a brochure on Two Rivers, what we do for the community and how **WE** help with conservation. For example, many of our trails are multi-use, for us and also for hunters. That minimizes additional use and trails. We close trails when the erosion danger becomes too great. We repair erosion danger by, in some cases, adding gravel or using heavy machinery to repair any damage. We have strict rules about littering and usually bring back more trash than we take. Our club members often give up some of the wheelin' time to help the landowners with repairs on their land. The list goes on and on

So – four requests:

1. Would someone be willing to help coordinate TRJC's activities for this event? It won't be a lot of work.
2. Can someone create a brochure for TRJC that we can give to the students and their parents?
3. We'd like to have at least one or two of our Jeeps at the day-long event for the kids to see and have the drivers available to answer questions.
4. We could also use some volunteers to help assist with the program.

Please contact Dave Christensen (davec@millenicom.com) 630-393-3314 before March 1 if you can help with any of these. This is a unique opportunity for a Jeep club to show that we care about conservation and aren't just out to tear up the environment. Please help!

2004 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 Home, 630-355-0956 FAX |
| Board Member | Walt Gilbert | waltpj@big-river.net | 573-324-6464 |
| Board Member | Tim Miller | jeepnwidow@home.com | 217-875-2680 |
| Board Member | Bob Lyerla | rcat9@msn.com | 708-479-6541 |
| Board Member | Hamer Tate | | 217-833-2861 |
| Board Member | Jim Catt | jumpercatt@aol.com | 815-469-1484 |
| Board Member | Gary Williams | gwilliam@adams.net | 217-285-4750 |
| Board Member | Tom Wombles | twombles@adams.net | 217-437-4361 |

Responsibilities

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Illini 4x4 Safari | Rick Culberson | rick1@consolidated.net | 217-562-4145 |
| 4x4 Blast | Rick Culberson | rick1@consolidated.net | 217-562-4145 |
| Promotional Items | Chad Suhre | suhresp@myhtn.net | 217-742-9818 |
| Trail Leadership & Maintenance | Doug Maxheimer | drmmaxheimer@netzero.net | 217-287-7470 |
| Public Relations, Newsletter, Web Page | Dave Christensen | davec@millenicom.com | 630-393-3314 |
| Newsletter Editor | Jude Fleeger | outbac4x4@aol.com | 630-307-7998 |

TRJC Web Page: <http://www.trjc.com/>
Club e-mail: trjc@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 for members who have participated in two work events (or equivalent) in the past year and \$120 for first year new members or those who have not met the work requirement. 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 appropriate columnist listed below. If you're not sure who to send it to, you can always send it directly to the newsletter Editor. Photos can be black and white or color with a description of what, where and when. Put your name on the back of the photo when submitting. All photos will be returned to the owner. Scanned photos, in any reasonable graphics format (medium to high-resolution), will also be accepted. (Low resolution photos do not print well.) Scanned photos may be sent directly to davec@millenicom.com

| Column | Columnist | e-mail | Phone |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Blooper Blurb | Bill Zoetvelt | ScremnGepn@aol.com | 708-479-9600 |
| Classifieds | | | |
| Club Affiliations UFWDA/ILFWDA | | | |
| Club Events | | | |
| Jeep/Member Spotlight | Tony Prochaska | Sparky@aans.org | 815-436-0722 |
| Safety Tips | | | 406-827-8277 |
| Social Coordinator | Steve Gambrell | chief351hfpd@email.msn.com | 217-423-4144 |
| Trip Reporter | Dave Christensen | davec@millenicom.com | 630-393-3314 |

Next Newsletter Deadline: March 15 – really!

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

