



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 8, Issue 2

April 2005

News 2 Use

Work weekends: There are only two work weekends left, perhaps by the time you get this newsletter, only one! **April 16** and **May 7** are the only two scheduled weekends left. Turnout has been light this year and there is still much work that must get done.

We'll need your help to get our trails ready. While not required, it's advisable for each attendee to have boots and heavy gloves. If you have a shovel and brush snips you might want to bring them along also. Chain saws are usually supplied by the trail leaders. Meet at the VFW at 8 AM for breakfast with the trails leaving at 9 AM. Check the web site for last minute changes, based on the weather. If you are not online, call one of your friends who is online to see if there are any updates or call the TRJC trail boss, Doug Maxheimer. These trail builders are a lot of fun; see Rick's article in this newsletter. In addition, vehicle inspections will be held both weekends.



Saturday, May 7 is the TRJC Appreciation Party at Tom and Debbie's Rockport Off Road Park. Please arrive by 6:30 for food and beverages. After the meal, there will be a night run at the park. Please RSVP via email to rop@irtc.net or call 217-437-5337 and leave your name and the number of attendees so the proper amount of food can be ordered. This time we're really going to order only enough food for those who RSVP so if you want to eat, you must RSVP by May 4. Thanks Tom and Debbie for opening up your Park for this event!

Safari: We're gearing up for another great Safari event May 19-21. There are still openings. If you know of someone whom you think might want to attend, please direct them to our website or have them call 630-717-5337 to get a registration form. We'd like to fill this event this year but we need **your help** to do it!



Agriculture Field Day: The Ag day will once again be sponsored entirely by TRJC and held on April 29 in Perry. Last year this was a phenomenal success with over 600 students attending. Without TRJC's sponsorship, this would not have occurred. It would be nice to have a few more Jeeps present for the kids to look at. (Just ask O.R.) If there is any way you can attend with your Jeep, **please do so** but contact Tom Wombles or Walt Gilbert so we know how many to expect. This is one way we can show the public we're a responsible group. We get extraordinarily good press coverage for this event. No preparation necessary, just show up and answer questions that the kids may have. Perry is 14 miles north of Pittsfield on Hwy 107. Try to be there by 8 AM.

New Members

Please welcome the following new members. Make a special effort to welcome them at trail builders and events. New folks can often be overwhelmed by the number of people in our club and we don't always take the time to welcome new members like we should. Remember what it was like when **you** were new. Make it **YOUR** job to make these new people feel at home and a part of the best wheelin' club in the country!

Ned Bushnell, Stillman Valley, IL - 71 CJ5 lbushnell@whiteheadweb.com
Kyle Williams, Iowa City, IO - 00 TJ kyle-williams@uiowa.edu
Ed Dubreuil, Anamosa, IA - 97 TJ edubreuil@msn.com
Matt Springer, Quincy, IL - 85 CJ7 mjs1216@insightbb.com
Jim Kime, Pana, IL - 99 XJ xjay1999@taylorvilleusa.com
Jim & Rona Brown, North Liberty, IA - 91 YJ jim-brown26@hotmail.com
Mike & Beth Erwin, Tolono, IL - 92 YJ luvspbr@yahoo.com
Oscar (Boomer) Freesen, Chapin, IL - freesen02@msn.com
Brent Long, Kankakee, IL - 98 XJ blong@olivet.edu
Christopher Phillips, East Peoria, IL - 99 TJ ckphillips4@netzero.net
Gary Whitehurst, East Peoria, IL - 04 TJ
Will Freesen, Chatham, IL - 88 YJ

County Line Trail Building - March 19 & 20, 2005

By Pete Niles – County Line Trail Guide

We had a great trail work-party on the County Line trail for the work weekend of March 19 & 20. I'd like to recognize them for putting in a FULL days work on Saturday and double thanks to Randy & Jeremy for a another full day of trail building on Sunday:

Randy Yoder
Tiffany & Kyle Thomas
Brent Davis
Jeff Schuck
Jeremy Heggen
Jeff Brown & Dad

These folks worked their tails off and only got to play a little bit. We cut 5 new sections into the existing trail. We've received some feedback from one of the trail-builders: "Can't wait to run the new stuff at the Safari".

Land Owner, Gerald Bennett, stopped out to take at look at our progress and give it a "thumbs-up".

Thanks again for remembering to have fun, keep it interesting, and help others make a difference.

Trail Building can be Fun!

By Rick Culberson

It's a two hour drive to Pittsfield, so I have a lot of time to think of all the work and all the people I need to talk to. The Safari is coming along nicely, and we have three or four new members wanting to help. When I show up at the VFW there are not a lot of people there. Now I think maybe I'm early, but after breakfast, still not a lot of people have shown up. **It's hard to have a premier 4X4 event if we do not have trails to run.** As members of The Rivers Jeep Club I ask you all to try to make at least two trail cleaning weekends. A lot of these guides are here every weekend work day. It's a good way to get to know you fellow club members. And it help show a BIG thank you to the people of Pike and Brown counties for letting us play in there back yards. Like I said, without your help, your Jeep club will not be able to have the best 4X4 events in the mid-west.

Now for all of you who could not make one of the previous work weekends, we had a blast, and I mean a blast. Walt with Charlie, Alan, with his son, Chuck and son, and myself all head out for Rockport Off Road Park to leave our trailers. Talked to Tom and Debbie and got water for the trail. Almost stayed there. A lot of 4X4 trucks and Jeeps showing up, but off to Atlas to meet Peej and Mad Dog. For you who have never been to Rockport Off Road Park, Debbie and Tom have put together some very fine trails, at different ratings, for a whole lot of fun. It's a beautiful day, sun's out in the mid 50s, just a great day to be on the trail. We start up the bluff into the area of Dora's living room; from there it was all down hill, at least that's what Walt said. With the great team of workers, we cleared the trail in less than an hour. Now Walt was thinking this was going to take the better part of the day, so we had better run this new trail.

Walt starts down this new trail that he said he was going to run up-hill. After my first time down it, I'll watch. Anyway Walt gets about 10 to 15 feet, and calls for a spotter. Peej makes his way to Walt and gets him thought the 1st part of this trail. Peej is next telling me it's no problem, come on down Rick. So off I go into the pits of what is now called Peej's crack. As I watch Peej go over on his side, only because there was not room to get the Jeep any farther over, I ask myself what in the heck am I doing in this washout. We finally get Peej back on his tires and out of the washout, only to get stuck on a small tree limb, that I told him to move, but oh no this is a Jeep trail. Walt backs up to strap him out, and breaks a tie rod. Now I'm looking back up this washout thinking to myself, "How in the heck am I going to back out of this?" It was hard just driving forward to get were I was. On top of that, Chuck and Alan had come on down to where I was sitting.

As Mad Dog is attacking Walt's Jeep trying to fix the broken tie rod, we decide it's time to eat lunch. Now anyone who has ever been around Walt, Doug, and Dave knows you're in for an interesting time with the stories they can tell. After lunch Peej gets me down into the bottom, next comes Chuck. Chuck only gets into the tree that's sticking out of the bank and skins up the passenger side and bends a windshield frame. Alan, with his son spotting, makes it with no damage. OK - we are all down in the creek, so we had better cut our way back up. I've been around for a while, and it's going to be one tuff Jeep that makes it up that trail. Peej said he would try it, but he was going to the top and come down. We all stand about half the way down

this new trail, as Peej get his Jeep to the top and starts down into the trail. We all stand there and down he comes.

Next noise we hear is not good. With this I start to my Jeep knowing we are in need of a winch. When I get to the top I find out Peej has snapped a front axle, so we start to winch him out. I have an 8000 lb. winch and it was everything my winch had to try to pull him up the hill he was down in. Finally Chuck came up and put a strap on him. With the two of us we got him to the top. Walt had also found a way to the top, along with Alan, so we are all at the top with Walt's very little steering and Peej's two wheel drive. Anyone who has ever run Atlas knows you need at least one locker if not two to just get you up most of the hills. So Chuck said he would strap Peej out. Now there is only one hill to go down and back up to get to the exit. It was really comical sitting behind these two as Chuck get to the bottom. Peej has his brakes on next thing I know Peej is at the bottom and Chuck is going up. The only trouble was the strap was slack. Peej is rolling back down the hill, and Chuck is giving it his all. When the strap came tight all stopped. The next thing you hear is poor Chuck spinning tire trying to get Peej to the top. After two more tries Walt backs down still with ever little steering and they both hook onto him and up he goes.

We get to the top, and off Walt goes finding more trail for us to cut. This next piece we cut in leads up to what they call Nine Ball. I have yet to see that part of the trail. Anyway we spend about an hour on this new trail. From what I saw of the bottom of it, it's going to be one heck of a challenge. Going down doesn't look too hard, as long as it's not wet. Once you're in the bottom of the creek there are some large rocks and soon to be mud holes to get through. Then it's another hard climb to the trail leading to Nine Ball. By the time we got it cut no one wanted to try the new piece as it was after 3:00PM and everyone needed to start for home. This is going to be one heck of a trail and hoping to make it into a full day trail. I can't wait to run this whole trail in the future. Back at the Jeeps, all started but Peej. It was running fine in two wheel drive when we stopped. Now it did not want to start. I hooked onto him with a strap and started to pull him to get started. It did not work. So I pull him back to Rockport Off Road Park where we try to find something wrong with his Jeep. Still can't get it started.

Now as it would happen, I only live 20 miles from Peej. Next thing I know Peej and Walt have made a deal on a set of axles sitting on Walt's trailer - the same axle that Peej has just broke today. Peej gets the axles, and Dave will not charge Walt for fixing his Jeep's tie rod or something like that. As I said earlier, if you have ever been around these three you're in for a treat. So the axles and Peej's Jeep goes onto my trailer, and Peej is going to drive my Jeep home. Off we go again - Peej and Dave in my Jeep and me pulling his. We drop Dave off at his new car wash in Springfield at the corner of Veterans and E. Lake Drive. It's a very pretty car wash with lots of colors and glass to make it attractive and safe with plenty of light. It did a really good job on one of the Jeeps that followed us back. Peej and I drive on down to Taylorville where I back his Jeep up to the garage. This is easier than said when you have a curved drive, dark, and no lights. I don't think Peej's wife was real happy to see her husband's Jeep coming home on someone else's trailer but she took it all in stride. What was really good was a set of axles sitting in the driveway with people coming to look at their house the next day. Oh well, all in the day of a Jeeper!

Now you, who do not come and help at the trail building weekends, see what fun you can have. Where else can you have this much fun, stay out of trouble, be out in nature, and almost kill yourself trying to walk up and down the hills.

Applied Jeepin'

By Rusty Murphy

Although this is not about any Jeeps, what was learned through Jeep'n over the years applied to this "How I always wanted to spend a Friday night". The daughter (D)'s boy friend (BF)'s car (a Dodge Neon) had a transmission problem that was supposedly fixed about a month earlier. D called on a Thursday night and asked if they (meaning I) could use the trailer as BF's car's check engine light was on and the car wouldn't move. BF (being unemployed) didn't have the money for another tow truck tow. As the car was not in her driveway, but was rolled and pushed to a side street in another town where the car had decided to quit, the police were called and told that it would be gone on Friday.

So, on Friday, left work early and after going to Milwaukee (a nice 3 and half hour trip during rush traffic) to pick up the son (S) from school for the weekend, continued to the trailer lot and then to D's. From there, we went to the car. Fortunately there was a parking lot by the side street, so pulled in with the trailer. It's amazing how heavy a little Neon is. The four of us pushed the car up, but not on to, the trailer ramps. We used a lot of recover gear. The 10 foot chain (with binder hooks which I thought I'd never need) recommended by the Club's class was wrapped around a rug that was wrapped around the trailer frame in front. The chain was attached to a Hi-Lift jack gadget (a raffle prize from only two weeks before at Sno-Blind) that makes the jack a hand winch. Since the Neon has no tow hooks, I had the BF find part of the frame (and it was only a skinny edge) to hook the ratchet straps I use when trailering the Jeep. The ratchet strap ends were clevised to the top of the jack. I figured if BF found the attach point and some thing pulled off – well it's his car.



After much fiddling, we developed a system. One notch of the Hi-Lift, move up the tire chocks behind the tires. At the end of the notches, set the parking brake, adjust the chain, take off the parking brake (an important step only forgotten once) and start again. When the chain ran out, adjusted the ratchet straps. And when the ratchet straps were too short, the car was up onto the trailer (finally!) and only a small shove to the center of the trailer. And

the driver window was left open for D (as the smallest and most flexible) to get in and out (for setting that parking brake and putting the car in park) as the doors wouldn't clear the trailer fenders. The axle straps held the car onto the trailer – glad I didn't toss the old ones when I bought 2 new.

Safety was a concern (as on the trail) and so, gloves were used and blanket over the hooks and if not working the jack – stay away! We provided the evening's entertainment for a couple of hours for the neighbors peeking through their curtains, a squad car (didn't stop) and an unmarked unit (twice).

As usual, I learned something – take the pictures and let somebody else do the hard work and next time – just pay for the tow truck!



SECRETARY REPORT

May 7th, 2005



I. Membership Classifications Summary:

Membership Categories -	May 7th, 2005
Regular Family Memberships	140
Land Owners	34
Trail Guides	25
Special Volunteers	8
Newsletter Only	10
Board Members	3
Totals	200

II. Geographical Membership Statistics:

States Represented by Membership -	May 7th, 2005
California	1
Iowa	7
Illinois	181
Indiana	1
Kansas	1
Kentucky	1
Michigan	3
Missouri	18
Montana	1
Wisconsin	6
Totals	220

III. Vehicle Membership Statistics:

Jeeps represented in the club membership = 208

TJ – 81, YJ – 41, XJ – 35, CJ5 – 6, CJ6 – 1, CJ7 - 17, CJ8 – 4, WJ – 2, KJ – 3, SJ – 2, ZJ – 3, Pick Ups – 4, Flatfenders – 9.

Trail of Life

Just like the real "Trail of Life", our Jeep trails can give you some unexpected surprises. Its amazing how much things can change in only a couple of months. A couple of weeks ago Murphy, Randy and I thought it would be exciting to cut a new entrance into the timber section of Murphy's Law. After making sure I ate enough breakfast that the VFW boys fixed up to carry me though the day, and making last minute arrangements with Murphy and Randy I headed for the trail. We quickly laid out a new route and were quite pleased with ourselves by the speed and dexterity demonstrated while clearing the trail. In only about an hour we had the new entrance ready to go. High fives all around.

What next? Well let's just scout out the rest of the trail. Murphy stated he had some loggers working in part of the timber but he had given instructions not to block our trails. As we came to Two Winch Hill and Hummer Lane we all responded in unison with the famous quote of Frank on Everybody Loves Raymond, "HOLY CRAP, its gone!!!" Our little joy ride came to a sudden stop. Felled trees everywhere.

A lot of them were right in the creek bed and across the trail. I think the problem is a non-Jeeper would think, "nobody would drive through that." Well we sure couldn't now. To make matters worse as we devised a clearing plan and began the work of cutting our way through, my normally trusty Stihl saw would not run. This meant Murphy had to cut everything with his while Randy threw the cut limbs and I tried to get my saw running. I finally decided it was more work to work on the saw than throw limbs so I abandoned the saw for another day and helped Randy throw limbs. I know Murphy does not want this to get around, but that boy can do some work.

He was cutting through those logs like a rabid beaver, sawdust flying everywhere. We made a pretty good dent in the mess that day and with the help of Todd Whitaker, Doug Watret, Doug's friend, whose name escapes me, and Logan Anderson, the Murphy's Law crew has the timber section ready to go. We really appreciate the help and the hard work. Work weekends are just a good time to come together and share our love of "Jeepin". I think everyone should try to make a couple of work weekends. I know there are several other trails in the same shape as ours was, so help is always needed and appreciated.

I received an E-mail from Nina Redecker, Carl's (Willey's Man) wife saying Carl has been having a hard time with several surgeries on his neck and back. He has managed to add to his herd of old Jeeps however, and his count is now 12 of the classic relics. Keep Carl in your prayers and thoughts and a card of encouragement I am sure would be appreciated.

Words of Wisdom: *I think there is only one quality worse than hardness of heart, and that is softness of head.* T. Roosevelt

See Ya on the Trail
Chief

Thanks

Brian Sleicher, the Warn representative that has helped Two Rivers and other clubs so much with generous donations from Warn over the past few years is moving on. We'd like to thank Brian for all his efforts to help our raffles and events. We wish him all the best in his new job. Thanks Brian and we wish you well!

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@insightbb.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: May 30



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
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Naperville IL 60564

