



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 8 Issue 6

December 2005

News 2 Use

2006 Event Schedule

The 2006 official Event Schedule has been approved and is found on page 2. Check it carefully as there are a few changes this year. Pages 3 and 4 describe the events in more detail.

Christmas Party

Over 30 people attended the annual Christmas Party on December 10. Thanks to the work of the Seymours, Walstons and Wombles, over \$1200 was made available for the "Angel Tree," a way to help needy children have a better Christmas, complete with presents. See page 6 for the story.

New Year's Day Run

Tom and Debbie are again sponsoring their New Year's Day run at Rockport Off-Road Park. All members of Two Rivers are invited to attend. Details of the run, including the costs, may be found at www.rorp.com or by calling the park at 217-437-5337.

Kick Off Dinner

Carl Seymour is once again coordinating the annual Kick Off Dinner to be held on Sat., Feb. 11 at the VFW. This is a fun time for all so reserve that date. As details become available they will be posted on the website. Post cards will also be sent to all members with the details.

Trail Building Weekend

The first two trail building weekends will be held February 11 and 25. We meet Saturday morning at the VFW in Pittsfield and trails leave at 9 AM. The VFW starts serving breakfast at 7 AM. Trail building is a **LOT** of fun and we encourage you to attend. RSVPs are not required, just show up. For those who help, Rockport Off-Road Park generously allows those workers to wheel for free the following Sunday.

Two Rivers Jeep Club

2006 Calendar of Events

Date		Time	Event	Location
Jan	1	9:00 AM	Rockport Off-Road Park New Year's Day Ride	Rockport Off Road Park
Feb	11	7:00 AM	Board Meeting	VFW, Pittsfield
		8:00 AM	Trail Building (Snow run if there is snow!)	
		6:00 PM	Kickoff Dinner	
		Registration opens for the Illini Safari		
	20	8:00 AM	Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield
Mar	11	8:00 AM	Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield
	25	8:00 AM	Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield
Apr	8	8:00 AM	First Aid Course	VFW, Pittsfield
		1:00 PM	Trail Building	
	22	8:00 AM	CPR Course	VFW, Pittsfield
		1:00 PM	Trail Building	
		7:00 PM	Board Meeting	
28	9:00 AM	Agriculture/Conservation Field Day Sponsored by TRJC (Rain date: May 4)	Perry	
May	6	8:00 AM	Trail Building	VFW, Pittsfield
	17	Registration opens for the 4x4 <i>BLAST</i>		
	18	8:00 PM	Board Meeting	American Legion
	18-20	3 PM Thu	5th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari	American Legion
Jun	24	8:00 AM	Miller's TNT Farm Father's Day Run	VFW, Pittsfield
Jul	15	1:00 PM	Afternoon Run and Night Run	VFW, Pittsfield
	29	7:00 AM	Board meeting	VFW, Pittsfield
		8:00 AM	Trail Building	
Aug	10-12	3 PM Thu	8th Annual 4x4 Blast	American Legion
Sep	16	8:00 AM	Better Late Than Never July 4th Run	VFW, Pittsfield
Oct	21	8:00 AM	Ma Earth Run	Rockport Off Road Park
		8:00 PM	Annual General Meeting and Board Elections	VFW, Pittsfield
		9:30 PM	Board Meeting	
	21-22	all day	Pike County Fall Color Tour	Rockport Off Road Park
Nov	4	1:00 PM	Board Meeting (2007 Event Planning)	VFW, Pittsfield
Dec	9	5:30 PM	Christmas Party	VFW, Pittsfield

To help with planning and advertising, dates for the 2007 Safari and Blast have been set:

May 17-19, 2007: 6th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari
Aug. 9 – 11, 2007: 9th Annual 4x4 *BLAST*

2006 Event Details

As always, information for each event will be in the newsletter, on the web site and on the forum.

New Year's Day Ride

- This is an RORP event open to anyone. TRJC members are invited to attend. It's a good way to start off the New Year and meet folks from other clubs. RORP charges a fee for this event.

Board Meetings

- Board meetings are at various times and locations this year to more closely fit in with existing events. These meetings are always open to all members of Two Rivers.

Trail Building Weekends

- These leave from the VFW at 9 AM except for April 8 and 22 when they will leave at 1 PM. Turkey hunting is open until noon those days so we could not use the trails until then anyhow. We'll take advantage of the hunting to hold some courses on those mornings. As usual, those who work Saturday are allowed to ride at RORP free the following Sunday.
- Breakfast is available at the VFW on Trail Builder Saturday mornings starting at 7 AM.
- Concern was raised about those who may not be able to make any of the scheduled trail builders due to their schedules. Trail Guides have the ability to schedule work on additional weekends if they first clear the schedule with the Trail Coordinator and the Landowner(s). If you want to work on another weekend, contact a Trail Guide or the Trail Coordinator and he'll see if there are enough volunteers to warrant an extra weekend.
- If any information is posted on the forum about any trail building weekend or checking to see who is going, make sure that folks know these weekends are members only. Non-members can read the forum posts. Due to insurance requirements, we cannot accommodate any non-member who might randomly show up based on forum posts.

Kickoff Dinner, Agriculture Field Day, Father's Day Run, Afternoon/Night Run, Better Late Than Never Run, Ma Earth Run, Christmas Party

- Members will be notified of these event details via the newsletter, web site and forum. The Appreciation party held in the spring will no longer be held due to low turnout and conflicts with other events. If there is a lot of interest in this and there are any volunteers to host an Appreciation Party, please contact our club Secretary.

First Aid, CPR and Awareness Courses

- April 8 and 22, TRJC will hold certified Red Cross First Aid and CPR courses in the morning. Trail Guides will be required to take these or equivalent courses. We need to determine how many other TRJC members would also like to take these two courses. If you are interested, please send email to davec@millenicom.com or call the club phone at 630-717-5337 to indicate your interest. Please do so by January 1. Based on your responses, we'll try to provide additional instructors. TRJC will pay the fee for those whose training is required. There will be a small fee for materials for anyone else.
- Depending on the number of new Trail Guides and members, we may hold a basic 4WD Awareness course in the late summer or early autumn.

2006 Event Details - continued

Safari and *BLAST*

- Dates have been set for 2006 **and** 2007. We need volunteers and new ideas from members. If you are willing to help, please contact our coordinator Rick Culberson at **(217) 562-4145**. Without your support and help, we cannot continue to sponsor these two events.

Annual General Meeting, Ma Earth Run and Pike County Fall Color Tour

- Based on requests from members, in 2006 we will hold our Annual General Meeting and Ma Earth run on the same weekend as the Fall Color Tour. Please try to attend. We know this will be a very busy weekend. You can choose from one, two, or any combination of the following events:
 - Drive around and enjoy the Color Tour. That in itself is worth the trip!
 - Spend an hour or two, Saturday or Sunday, giving non-Jeepers 15-20 minute rides to show them what our hobby is all about.
 - Wheel on your own or in a group at RORP.
 - Watch the Rock Crawl competition being held at RORP that weekend.
 - Attend the Annual General Meeting and Elections Saturday night.
- If you have an extra seat or two in your Jeep, think about stopping out at RORP and volunteer to give people a Jeep ride for perhaps an hour or two either Saturday or Sunday. The free Jeep rides offered by our members are more and more popular each year. There are folks who come to the Fall Color Tour specifically because of the Jeep rides we offer. Donations from the Jeep rides help fund the Christmas Food Pantry program. By holding our AGM during this weekend, we hope to attract more members who would be willing to provide rides for the Tour.
- For those who only want a trail ride and do not wish to participate in the Fall Color Tour, RORP will be open to members who may want to run RORP's trails on their own or get a group together and run some trails. A rock crawl competition is also being held that weekend. If you've never seen one of these, stop out at the Park. You'll be amazed what these custom rock crawlers can do.
- Saturday night, 8 PM, will be the AGM and elections. Folks may be tired after a fun day, but this is about the only time elections could be held.
- Motels and B&Bs fill up quickly. If you plan on attending, get your reservations in soon, please.
- Moving the AGM and elections will be a trial. The Board hopes this will increase participation in the Color Tour and will also draw more members to the AGM. We'll be looking for feedback from you to see how this worked out and whether or not we should continue to hold these events concurrently.

If you have any questions about these events, or suggestions, please email trjc1@trjc.com or call the club phone. This is your club and these events are for you so please let us know if we're meeting your expectations.

From Gary Williams, Board Member and Vice President -

I am proud to be the vice-president of the Two Rivers Jeep Club for the upcoming year. My family and I have been involved with the club since the beginning 14 years ago and have received a lot of enjoyment out of the people we have met along the way.



I never would have thought that a few guys sitting around the table talking about a Jeep club would have evolved into something that has lasted this long. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the club's success. I am looking forward to the coming year and the club members' teamwork to strengthen our group.

I'll be glad to listen to anyone that has suggestions for improvements. I am available by phone or e-mail.

New Member

Please welcome George Metzger, Romeoville to Two Rivers!

Christmas Party

By Kelly Bumgarner



Only a few showed up for the invite to run at Rockport but we had a lot of fun. We did most of the one a two rated trails but the snow and resulting slick surfaces made these a good bit harder than the rating. As you can see from the photos, Carey ran a demonstration on what thickness of ice will NOT hold a Jeep up! We really appreciate Tom and Deb hosting us for the day. While we were there, it was a great opportunity for us to pick up several Rockport gift certificates to give out to our off-roading relatives this Christmas.



The evening event was started with a hearty traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings including, of course, pumpkin pie. The folks of the VFW were gracious hosts and we were well fed and made to feel quite welcome. The gifts were nice and the gift exchange was a hilarious good time. Chad Suhre got to hold some really nice gifts, but not for long whereas others also liked them and promptly snatched them from his grasp. However Chad did end up with something really nice as did everyone else. The whole event was worth the drive down for Sharon and I. We will do it again next year.

Each year an "Angel Tree" is provided for the needy kids in Pike County. Kids come and pick up a card from the tree which then lists a gift that they may have. This year, Carl and Barb, along with the Walstons, got gifts from Farm and Home in Pittsfield for the Angel Tree. Our club gave \$500 and Tom Wombles convinced Farm and Home to match what we spent. Tom then included \$100 from the park and \$100 from his dozing business. So, all in all \$1200 was made available for needy Pike County kids!



Trail of Life

By Chief



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 was 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.

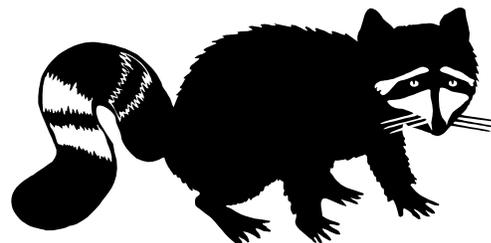
As I climbed the stairs in my bedtime attire (seems I am never fully dressed during these battles) and entered the room, there was a noise that sounded vaguely like a herd of cattle running through the outside wall. Our house has a wrap around porch and the roof structure provides an attic space which 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 up 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!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Chief



Secretary Report

Frannie Suhre

Minutes of the TRJC Board of Director's Meeting

Date: October 8th, 2005 – **Time:** 9:20 a.m. CST - **Place:** VFW Hall Pittsfield

Board Members Present: O.R. Freesen – President, Lee Ator – Vice President, Walt Gilbert, Hamer Tate, Gary Williams, Tom Wombles, Jim Catt, Frannie Suhre, Charlie Ater.

Board Members Absent: Tim Miller

Committee Members Present: Doug Maxheimer, Rick Culberson, and Chad Suhre

Minutes of the July 30th, 2005 and the September 17th, 2005 meetings were approved as written.

Committee Reports:

Land Owner Appreciation: - Lee Ator- Lee will be stepping down from landowner appreciation. He will finish delivering the remainder of the gift certificates, but a replacement will need to be found after one month.

New Business:

- a. Alan Grady will fulfill the remainder of OR Freesen's term on the Board of Directors.
- b. Tank Schultz will be listed as a special volunteer for his work with tech inspections both for club members and the events.
- c. Information for the 4WD Hardware incentive program will be placed on the website to ask for members' input so a decision can be made at the November meeting.
- d. A plaque was approved for OR Freesen for his many years of service to TRJC (up to \$75)

Election of Officers: President- Lee Ator, Vice President- Gary Williams, Treasurer- Hamer Tate, Secretary- Frannie Suhre

Resolutions:

- a. Alan Grady will fulfill the remainder of OR Freesen's term on the board of directors

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am

The next Board of Director's Meeting will be November 12th, 2005 at 1:00 pm CST at the VFW Hall, Pittsfield, Illinois.

2006 Board Members and Responsibilities

Board Members

President	Lee Ator		217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750
Secretary	Fran Suhre	franjan@verizon.net	217-742-9818
Treasurer	Hamer Tate		217-833-2861
Board Member	Charlie Ater	c8r3@irtc.net	217-742-3275
	Jim Catt	riddle01@comcast.net	815-469-1484
	Walt Gilbert	waltpj@big-river.net	573-324-6464
	Alan Grady	cgrady5600@sbcglobal.net	815-838-8611
	Tim Miller	jeepnwidow@insightbb.com	217-875-2680
	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	franjan@verizon.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 15

Two Rivers Jeep Club
C/O Frannie Suhre
870 State Route 106
Winchester, IL 62694



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