



Two Rivers Tracker

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

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December 2006

Better Late Than Never December Newsletter

Happy New year to all! As we enter 2007, there are a lot of activities in store for members. Several new runs are in place and we will once again be holding the Safari and Blast. There are ample opportunities to play during the work weekends and there are opportunities for new people to get involved with the club and help out.

December and January are pretty much our "down-time." A lot of folks are working on their Jeeps and getting ready for the wheelin' season ahead. Some people have bought new Jeeps. One way or another, most of us are getting ready and looking forward to a great season of wheelin'. So let's look ahead and see what's up for our club in the next few months.

Annual Kickoff Dinner

February 3 has been set as the date for our first Trail Builder (or snow run if there is snow.) In addition, the first Board Meeting of the New Year will be held as well as our annual kickoff dinner. This year there will be no auction, instead members will have an opportunity to linger after the meal, renew old friendships and meet some of the newer members of the club and have a chance to talk with them. We encourage all members, new and old to attend. Frannie will be sending more information ahead of the event but hold that date! As soon as I get information, we'll put it on the website also.

Vehicle Recovery Seminar

On March 3rd, the guides from Susie's Knob will hold a Vehicle Recovery Seminar on the trail, to demonstrate recovery techniques in an off-road environment. Meet at 8:15 at the VFW. **The caravan will leave for the trail at 8:30.** It is about a 5 mile drive to the trail head. C.B. channel 30 will be used.

Unless there is a monsoon, we will hold this casual informative seminar on the trail to share with you our ideas on Jeep recovery. We hope to help with such questions as what should you keep in your Jeep for recovery, if I'm alone and stuck can I self recover, or do I need help, what is a risky recovery, are you thinking, and what would happen if this recovery goes wrong ?

RSVP to davec@millenicom.com or call the club phone at 866-483-3982. The maximum seminar size is 20 Jeeps. Any more would cause congestion on the trail. If there are more Jeepers interested, we can always schedule another class.

Bring lunch, and your choice of non alcoholic beverages, leather gloves and questions.

This seminar will be conducted by John Toumbs, Mark Kinne and Mark Tweedell. If you have any questions about the seminar or content, please contact any one of them.



Trail Builders



The next few work trail building weekends are Feb. 3, Feb. 17, Mar. 3, Mar. 17, Apr. 21, and May 5. 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. These trail builders are a lot of fun. 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.

Newsletter Articles

We need your help for the newsletter. If you don't submit articles, other people won't get a chance to see some of the fun things we do. For example, our Christmas Party was held Dec. 9 but we have no write-ups from anyone nor photos. Please take the time to send your articles and photos to me at davec@millenicom.com.

Safari and *BLAST* News

By Kelly Knoll

Hello fellow Jeepers from your event coordinator. Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas. What a great winter so far. I hope it can continue like this.

Soon we will be hitting the trails. Trail buildings will begin Feb.3 along with the kick off dinner. I would like to invite everyone out to participate in prepping trails. Don't let anyone fool you, this is not all work. There is a lot of fun to be had.

I have started making contacts and will be going gangbusters here the first week of January. If there is anyone with suggestions or questions please feel free to contact me either by e-mail or phone.

Home phone is 815-234-4486, cell is 815-978-9802, and e-mail sheyndtwo@insightbb.com. I think we currently have enough helpers and will let you know if that changes.

Hope to see everyone soon!

Thanks for a Great Time

This letter was written back in June. It is now December and I have the opportunity to finish it. The letter started off stating that my membership dues were in the mail. I haven't gotten to that either. It looks like my entire family may be relocating to North Carolina. If we don't move, I will follow through with my membership dues. The rest of the letter was written immediately following the arrival of the newsletter. It was a fun weekend, even if I did miss Saturday by helping my parents bail hay.

I was reading through the letters and my wife Chris asked if there was any mention of her screaming while driving a couple challenges. As fortune has it, towards the end of the newsletter there was a well written description of her driving through Carburetor Alley. I read it to her. She had me read it to her again. Then she read it twice and she then called her parents to read it to them. I think she liked being described as a dark haired daredevil. She also was the one declaring over the radio that she is addicted to Jeeping.

Brad, Dana and the entire crew were amazing. Everyone was very generous. I would like to thank Graham for letting me drive his Jeep through Carburetor Alley. I just wish I had seen Chris as she ignored hand signals and kept climbing the wall of Carburetor Alley. After that, she finally accepted my invitation to sit behind the wheel and drive my Jeep for a while.

A big thank you to everyone for everything!

John Moody

Trail of Life

By Chief

As 2006 comes to an end, reflection of the past year is a common pastime for many of us. I have so many stories of situations and incidents which have happened the final few months of this year I am in a quandary as to which one to tell you about. We have just come through a vicious ice storm here in the center part of the state. The old 60's song, "Oh What a Night" comes to mind as we literally ran emergency calls all night long, with every piece of apparatus busy. There were so many "people at their best and people at their worst" stories from that happening I might write a book.

We finally took delivery of our new fire engine, which was a year in the making. There is a story that goes along with this that Mrs. Chief said I would not have courage enough to tell. Well, after I turned 50 and have to undergo the geriatric yearly physical, I have hardly any pride left, so here goes. I am sure there are many of you who have shared the same experience.

Let me set the stage. The company who built the new engine is in a town in Nebraska whose population is 318. It is out in the middle of nowhere. The strange thing is there are two fire truck manufactures in this town, employing more people than the town is big. The companies are such an economic factor in the area that the state is building a new four lane highway into the town. There is a town of 25,000 thirty miles away and that is about it.

When we went to inspect and take delivery of the truck we stayed in this town and then traveled back and forth to the factory. On Sunday we ate lunch prior to traveling to the factory to scope out the surroundings. A rather spicy and soon to be inflammatory meal which was great, but would lead to what I believe was a major crisis. Just as we entered the area of construction about ten miles out of town the ominous rumblings began. It was that feeling of impending urgency. I was soon, very soon, going to be in need of a comfort station.

Problem, I am out in the middle rural Nebraska which seems to have an abundance of traffic and no convenient off road stops. As the sweat began to form on my brow, we entered the construction area. Checking the map, there seemed to be a small town a mile or so down the road. Surely they have a gas station. A mad dash to the wide spot in the road yielded a single business which probably closed during the dust bowl era. Feeling the pressure now, literally, I was beginning to face the very unpleasant face I might be "#\$&*! out of luck!!"

Then as we returned to the construction area I saw it, a small orange oasis in the middle of the construction area. A Porta Potty. It was well off the road behind mounds of dirt and barricades. Caution to the wind, (pardon the pun) I launched the big red Dodge off road towards the island of hope. "Quick, give me some tissue, I know there won't be any," and as I maneuvered through the mounds and ruts I planned my tactics to have the shortest route from the truck to the "one holer".

Then the fear and doubt began, what if it's locked, what if it is only a tool shed. Stop it, stay focused, no time for distractions. Upon arriving at the orange life saver I was blessed to see it was not locked and yes, it was a porta potty. Without getting into any more details, everything came out okay. What a relief Nebraska saw fit to build a four lane road and put a porta potty in such a perfect place. Well, maybe I should of stuck with a Christmas story but this column is about the The Trail of Life. And as we know, it ain't always pretty.

Cares and Concerns:

- Virginia Williams was recently in the hospital, but is home now and the latest report says she is doing well.

Our Condolences to:

- Teke Karagaard recently lost his grandfather.
- Nina and Carl Redecker. Nina's mother passed away December 10th after an eight year struggle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Words of Widsom: We can't always choose the situations that life brings us, but we can choose the attitude we will use to face them. and Don't get into a stinking contest with a skunk.

Hope you had a Merry Christmas and Have a Happy New Year
See ya on the Trail.....Chief

Will this be your last Newsletter?

Membership renewals are due and have been sent out. If you did not receive yours, please use the copy attached to this newsletter. **By the end of this month, your name will be removed from the club roster if you have not renewed.** We realize not all members renew each year as interests and time constraints change. But if you want to remain a member of the best wheelin' club in the Midwest, please rejoin today!



Two Rivers Jeep Club 870 State Route 106 Winchester IL 62694

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

2007 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

Deliver notices and newsletters via email only

Checking this box means you will receive only minimal paper notifications and no paper copy newsletter.

I hereby release 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 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. Dues for the following year are to be paid by **October 1**. 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
C/O Frannie Suhre
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Winchester, IL 62694

Place
Stamp
Here



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