



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 9 Issue 1

February 2006

News 2 Use

- **'Tis the Season - to Start Wheelin, that is.....**

What's nice about February? Maybe the only thing nice about it (other than Valentine's Day, of course) is that we start our wheelin' season. The trail builder weekends have already started with more on Feb. 25, Mar. 11, Mar. 25, Apr. 8, Apr. 22 and May 6. Before long we'll be seeing green on the trees. Check the Trail Builder article out on page 3.



- **Kickoff Trail Builder and Meal**

Our annual kickoff event was held February 11. If you didn't get a chance to attend you missed a really great day. There was a roll over (new member, first time out!), a small fire (in another vehicle), a tree that fell on a Board member's Jeep and another Board member who discovered that 50,000 volts from an ignition coil can be an electrifying experience. The season is starting off with a bang! The dinner and auction that evening went much better than the day's wheeling. Check out the article on page 2.

- **How to Contact Us**

Starting this year TRJC now has a toll free number, **866-483-3982**, in addition to our existing number, **630-717-5337**. These numbers are available if you have questions about any of the events or the club. These numbers are also available for those non-members who have questions about the Safari or Blast. We've been able to provide this toll free number by switching phone carriers and, in the process, saving the club many hundreds of dollars a year. If you prefer e-mail, the best address to use is **davec@millenicom.com**. You can still use **trjc1@trjc.com** but I get maybe 30-40 spam emails a day on that address and may miss some legitimate emails. If you want to contact any of the committee chairs or Board Members, we also publish their phone numbers and emails in each newsletter.

- **CPR and First Aid Courses to be offered in April - see page 4.**
- **Safari Registration is now open - see page 6.**
- **President Lee says "Hi!" - see page 6.**

Kickoff Trail Builder and Dinner

By Dave



Let's see, did anything exciting happen the first day of trail building for the year? A new member, Teke Karsgaard, rolled tipped his Cherokee over on Atlas. Then his buddy had a slight brake fluid leak that got on a hot manifold and, well, you can guess the rest. Keep those fire extinguishers handy! Alan Grady, after



replacing the front sheet metal, decided it looked too good and proceeded to knock down a tree on the aforementioned good looking sheet metal. And Jim Catt elected to ascertain what 50,000 volts from an ignition coil would feel like traveling throughout his body. He found out. Other than that, it was a quiet, peaceful, easy beginning to our wheeling season.



That evening about 50 folks came for the dinner and festivities. First was a presentation by Alan Grady to new member Teke. Teke got the golden hook, normally reserved for later in the year, but his performance on the trail today was so outstanding that he was presented with it at the dinner. Next, Frannie Suhre presented a special plaque to O. R. Freesen for his years of work and effort with our club. Thanks O. R.! That was followed by more presentations to those landowners that were at the VFW. Two Rivers is presenting each landowner with a plaque expressing our gratitude for their support of our club. Those that were not present will have their plaques delivered by Charlie Ater.

After the presentations, auctioneer Bob Evans donated his time and ran an auction where we raised almost \$800 for the Mounted Angels. Thanks to Bob for his efforts and thanks to all those who came and participated in this event. We had a great time. Thanks to Carl Seymour who set up the evening's festivities.

For those who didn't attend, see what you all missed???



Who, what, when

By Walt Gilbert



It was about eight years ago that the crazy "Jeepin' Bug" bit me, and its effects have stuck with me. Along with the act of running trails, I enjoy the fellowship which the club offers. Trail building is one of my favorite aspects of being a club member. That's when you get to know fellow members better and form new relationships. This is what makes the club successful. Obviously we need to put new effort into building our club membership and put more emphasis on getting all club members involved, letting them know that their opinions are important. The club is solid, but some fine tuning from time to time is important.

I am the vice president of a newspaper publishing group in Missouri and am directly responsible for five newspapers. I've been in this business since high school, and that was a long time ago. Val and I enjoy 50's and 60's stuff, and are in the process of restoring a 1962 Airstream camper and 1960 Chevy station wagon. Her bout with cancer, many surgeries and treatments during the past year and a half have helped us put life into better perspective. We thank the Lord every day for our many blessings, and the fellowship with people of the Two Rivers Jeep Club is among those blessings.

I encourage club members to attend meetings, voice their opinions, and then support decisions which are made. Attend the trail building sessions; they are some of the best times you will enjoy. Get involved, raise your hand when help is needed, and make new friends. That's what the club is all about.

Walt Gilbert
Trail Guide and Board Member



Trail Builders



The next few work trail building weekends are Feb. 25, Mar. 11, Mar. 25, Apr. 8, Apr. 22 and May 6. 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.

Also, Sundays, **there will be free guided trail rides** for members at RORP. Details will be available Saturdays before the trail builder runs leave. Many people have asked for this and a number of members have volunteered to lead some trails and make sure that people who come to Pittsfield to work for the weekend can maximize the amount of time they spend wheelin'.

Certified CPR and First Aid Courses

As part of TRJC's ongoing safety program, this year we're offering the Red Cross Certified CPR and First Aid Courses. Both courses will be held in a one day 8 hour long session. The first session will be held Saturday, April 8. Another session will be held April 22. You may attend either one. These sessions will be held at the VFW in Pittsfield starting at 8 AM.

At least one helper or leader from each trail must take this course. There will be no charge for any trail official.

This course is also being opened up to all members of Two Rivers. The cost, per attendee, will be \$35 to cover the materials. Members are encouraged to attend.

Sufficient instructors will be available to keep the size of the hands-on portion of the courses limited to 6-8 people. In order to ensure instructor availability, it's essential that we have an accurate count of attendees.

By February 28, please let us know if you will be attending and also which session you wish to attend. No money is required ahead of time, you may pay at the day of the class.

Please send your responses to franjan@verizon.net or call the club phone, toll free, 866-483-3982 and let us know what date and how many will be attending.

This will not be offered for a few more years so this is your opportunity to take these courses now. You never know when this type of training may be needed, either on or off the trail.

Any questions, contact Fran or call the club phone.

Trail of Life

By Chief

I am sorry to say I have just missed the first Annual Kick Off Dinner since I have been a part of Two Rivers Jeep Club. How a calendar can get so full so quick is amazing. The most aggravating part is I had to miss the dinner because of a training class I needed for the fire department. After making all the arrangements, the instructor had to cancel at the very last minute, too late to adjust and make the dinner.

I always look forward to rejoining the group after the winter break and to catch up on the latest news. News is something I can always use. Except for a few faithful contributors, I have to dig up most of the information I pass along to you all by myself. Yeah I know I am whining again but it is kind of tough to write about club member's activities and experiences when no one sends me any of the aforementioned items. I still have a couple of raccoon stories, but I don't want to appear to be a "one dimensional writer." I do have an interesting story about a State Trooper Zappa who patrols around the Grafton area, but I am saving that for a really desperate time. It is good to know however they are on the job protecting us, and a more pleasant fellow you will never meet.

Well, spring is just around the corner and we have a full new season of TRJC Jeeping ahead. With a little effort from each one of us, it should be a banner year for our club. I am looking forward to seeing you and running the woods of Pike county.

- Our condolences to Susan, our friend from the Motel Pike. Susan recently lost her son-in-law.
- Billy Walston and Bridget Fugett have recently undergone back surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery.
- We also congratulate Billy Walston on his marriage to Tonya. We wish them all the best in their new life. Billy and Tonya had quite a unique wedding with more details to follow in the next newsletter. And no, his back surgery was NOT related to his marriage.☺

Words of Wisdom: The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every morning. And.....If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging!!

See ya on the Trail
Chief

New Members

We welcome the following new members to Two Rivers. Please make a point of introducing yourself to them at our gatherings. This year we'll start to include their email addresses. Please drop them a line, welcome them to the club and help them become acquainted with items that we take for granted – like what to bring to the trail builders, where we meet, when, etc. A little encouragement will help new members feel a part of the club.

- Dan Reineking, Harvard, IL, 79 CJ7, 83 CJ8, 01 TJ, drienke2000@yahoo.com
- Jeff and Deb Sorensen, Harvard, IL, 95 YJ, jsorensen@gocsg.net

Safari Registration is Now Open

About the same time you get this newsletter you should be receiving your form for the Safari. **This year we again need your help.** Please talk to your friends and encourage them to attend this year's events. Post notices of the events on bulletin boards and forums. Talk it up at meetings you have with other clubs. We need good participation to keep these events going and you can help by advertising the Safari and Blast for us. Thanks!

President Lee's Address to the Club:

“Let's have some fun and go wheelin'!”

Well, maybe that was a little short for the address to the club. I'll try again.

Folks, this is the 14th year for Two Rivers. We've worked hard to make our club the premier Jeep club in the Midwest. No other club even comes close to offering the trails, the events, the fun, and the camaraderie that we have. While fuel prices have had an impact and we don't see as much of each other as we'd like, we still have our trail builders and events and we hope you can make a few of them this year. For the new members, we welcome you and hope you'll have as much fun with Two Rivers as some of us had had over the past 14 years. And for those who have been with us a while, thanks for hanging in there and helping make our club what it is today.



I encourage all of you, new or old, to become active in the club. Bring up your suggestions at Board Meetings or to me. Let us know what we can do to make this club what you want it to be.

So now that I'm finally done with my speech, let's have some fun and go wheelin'!

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) or 866-483-3982 (toll free)

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: March 15

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

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