



# Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 11 Issue 1

February 2008

## A Great Start to a Fun Spring

We had a good turnout for the Kick-Off Trail Day and dinner – almost 50 people. Thanks to Tammy, the VFW was superbly decorated! All who attended got a good meal, Valentine's candy, door prizes and had a great time on the various trails. See the photos on Page 3.

Between now and the next newsletter there are a lot of events occurring. To save the cost of postcards and extra postage, we won't be sending out reminder cards for these events so this newsletter and the notices on the web site will be the only notice.

- **Trail Builders** – A few trails are OK, most are a mess. We need help! Meet at the VFW 8-ish for breakfast with Trails leaving at 9 AM. We won't know much ahead of time which trails so check the website for details. There will also be some additional work weekends, depending on Trail Guide availability. Those notices will also be posted on the web site. If you have questions, contact Trail Master Doug Watret.

***The Trail Builders are scheduled for March 1, March 29, April 5, April 19 and May 3.*** Please plan on attending one or more. The trails need your help – and besides – these Trail Builders are fun!

- **March 29 - Member Appreciation Day** - Join us for a **free** breakfast at the VFW followed by a day of fun on the trails. Some assembly may be required! That evening between 5 and 6, come on back to the VFW for a free meal. There will be more freebies for folks who attend as we dig through our boxes of older TRJC promotional materials. **You must RSVP** to Jeff Sorensen, [jeffsorensen@mchsi.com](mailto:jeffsorensen@mchsi.com), 815-943-3163 by March 26<sup>th</sup> so the correct amount of food can be ordered. **Please RSVP!!!!** Any questions or if you'd like to help, contact Gary Williams.
- **April 19 - Board Meeting** – After the Trail Builder, there will be a Board Meeting at the VFW, 6 PM.
- **May 15 -17** - 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Illini 4x4 Safari. Please invite your friends and extend the invitation to other Jeep clubs you may know of. We need to ensure good attendance at the Safari and Blast so we can continue these events.

# Directories, Email, Mailings, Etc.

**Directories** – The directories were distributed to those who attended the Kick-off dinner and have been mailed to those who could not attend. Please check your name for accuracy. The information in the directories is based on data in the membership database, copies of which were sent out with the renewals. If you have any corrections to your data, please let our Secretary, Jeff Sorensen know.

**5, 10 and 15 Year Decals** – For those who have been with Two Rivers for 5, 10 or 15 years, the anniversary decals have been mailed. If you didn't get one, or are missing one from a previous year, contact Durrell Miller.

And a special thanks to Durrell for putting the directories and anniversary stickers together this year! There's a lot of effort involved. Nice work!

**Email** – The question arose at the Board Meeting about using email to let members know of events and changes. A few years ago we had an extensive email list of all members but we no longer will send out blanket email to all members. We're not sure how, but many names on the email list started to get massive amounts of spam and virus laden email. It's a shame that people take advantage of mailing lists like that, but in order to respect member's email privacy, we'll no longer send out blanket emails.

**Duplicate Mailings** - Hamer brought to our attention that some members, especially a few landowners who also have their names listed as a corporation, get duplicate copies of the newsletters and other mailings. We think we've fixed that by removing those extra mailings. If you still get two copies of mailings, let Jeff know.



## 4 Wheel Drive Hardware Club Program

Mark Schumacher has signed up those who replied to be part of the club program at 4WD Hardware. Only a dozen or so members have taken advantage of this. If you want to be eligible for the discounts and participate in a program that will allow a small percentage of the total sales to be given back to TRJC, please contact Mark at [m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net](mailto:m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net) or (309) 523-3918. This is a way for you to get a discount on parts and help the club at the same time.

# Photos from the Kick-Off Day



**And a great time  
was had by all!!**

# Rick's Ramblings

Another year! Are we all ready? The Kick-Off dinner was great, food good, and a lot of good friends. A few new members and good times had by all. It was nice that we all stood up and told who we were as now I can put a face with the names. Everybody got a gift, and the room looked every good. A BIG THANK YOU to Tammy and Lee Ator (I'm told he is the one that cannot spell his name right.) The VFW looked very nice.

As a new board member this year, I now have even more to think about. We had our first board meeting of the year and all is well. We do have a few openings in our membership so now is the time to talk your buddy into joining. I know I have had a few friends join and it sure is fun wheeling with them. It's really a lot of fun when you get to strap them out but you have to live the humiliation when they strap you out.

As I was sitting at the table during the board meeting, I could not help but notice all the awards around the room. We, as members, have done a lot to be proud of but we need to get back in that mode. I think we can, and maybe be even better, with the help of some of the newer members who are stepping forward. We need some of the newer members or even some of the older members to step forward and volunteer to help with a few of the club events. There are plenty of older members to help with the planning and in the age of cell phones and e-mail it makes it pretty easy.

The Safari is coming along very good. Most of the people who helped me when I was coordinator before are helping again. Jim Vanderborg is taking over the sponsorship portion of the events. If you know of someone who would like to sponsor at the Two Rivers Jeep Club Safari or Blast give him or me a call. I talked to Karen, from Pike County Chamber of Commerce who is processing the registrations for us, and she said the registrations are starting to come in.

If you come to Pittsfield for a work weekend, and you do not want to do a trail on Sunday, you may try the driving tour of the Lincoln homes in Pittsfield. Go by the Chamber, they have a lot of information on Pittsfield and the surrounding area. It is very interesting.

This year we are going to try a few different things for the Safari. Every driver will win something. It may not be a big prize, but at least they will have something to take home with them. Another thing we are trying is that members now get a bigger price cut. If you come to both of the events, you more than pay for your club membership dues with the money you save. Now to get a really big discount, some of you newer members need to step up and help with some of the projects we do.

One of you can always have my job, it's really not that bad. I would have never met the people that I have come to respect the way I do if I had never stepped up. I look back on the ten years I have been a member of Two Rivers Jeep Club, and wouldn't change a thing. Not even all the break downs I have in my Jeep. Where else would I have learned to make the repairs that I have had to make on numerous trails we have.

It's easier to name the trails I have not broken on than the ones I have. Let's see, Ridge Rambler, Hopewell, New Salem, and Myers, and that's only because I have not run the trails that much. I think Lee got me through Dutch Creek without a break down. All the rest have taken a toll on the TJ during the past 10 years. One of the first was Pokey getting me high centered on a 6 inch stump after putting a 3 inch lift on my Jeep. I still don't know how I did that. Now Gary, on Murphy's, somehow got me to break a brake line on flat land and there were not even any sticks around. Jim, on Lake View, somehow got a massive log to jump up and take out my slave cylinder. When we got the stick out it was only around 9 inches long.

This is a new year, and I am going to take it easy, and hopefully have any break downs. Wouldn't that be nice. My wife wants big break downs. She has taken it upon herself to buy new furniture of equal amounts of the parts that I tear up. So now it's costing double every time I do something stupid. I guess that's not bad. 10 years and I have finally learned something .....never tell my wife what parts cost! Oh well enough of that.

This is going to be a good year for the club. With all of the help we are getting and the new faces I see helping, it has got to be great. Take a look at the calendar and find a weekend or weekends and see if you and your family can make a trail building weekend. That is the time that most people have the most fun. And if you're new, just sit back and watch folks like me make a fool out of ourselves! Then you can show us how it is done, or at least make a good try at it. And if you don't make it, please don't let Pokey try as most of the time he makes it. I know the few times I have let him, I have tried 3 or 4 times and then he gets in and drives right up or through it. How humbling can that be?

But do come on over and have a great time with fellow club members doing what we like best. Hope to see you all on the trails.

*Rick Culberson, Safari  
and Blast Coordinator*



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## Alan's Ramblings on Atlas

By Alan Grady

Well it was another great day on the ATLAS trail. The trails were very slippery and there were a few trees down, but the weather was good, not too cold, but just cold enough to remind you that it's February in central Illinois.

We did not make it to the usual lunch spot, which is just up hill from the spiny hole, so we all found a log, ate some lunch and swapped Jeep stories. Thomas learned the finer points of off-camber driving on frozen ground and even performed some reverse gear front wheel drive only maneuvers after a slight miscalculation.. oops!

Some very creative winching by Jeff Sorensen & Dan Reineking made short work of the biggest sections of fallen trees. Walt Gilbert and I scouted out some new steeper climbs for the dry days and even a few by-passes for those really wet days.

We only ran about 30% of the trail so for the next few trail builders we can certainly use some helpers.

I did find it interesting that when Walt offered his empty seat to a Jeepless club member. It only took him a millisecond to respond "No! I don't think so!....."

# And More Ramblings, This Time from Our Trail Master

Well, another season of Jeepin' has started. Christmas has long passed, New Year's day is just a blurry memory, and I still haven't got any thing done on my 90 YJ. I got a whole lot of gift cards for 4WD Hardware and a wad of cash yet I still am undecided about what I want to do. I guess I'll figure it out later. Now more to the point of why I am writing.

I just got home from the first run of the year. I was really happy with the turnout for the kick-off this year. The weather seemed to cooperate with us this year over last year. I saw a lot of familiar faces of people I haven't seen since last year and was glad to see many new faces in the crowd this year already. I got over to the V F W and was glad to see the men there had breakfast ready for us. I've been waiting since last year for this. I think I like the food just as much as the wheelin'. Everyone got their fill and we headed out to the trails. We ran Atlas, Dutch Creek, New Salem, and Ridge Rambler. Since Jennifer wasn't with me, I decided to run Ridge Rambler just to play it safe. She's afraid I'll get really stupid and try something I really have no business doing. (She's right!)

So a little after 9:00am we left with Hamer and John and three red TJs to see first hand what the ice storms that Pike county received had done to our trails. It was as bad as I thought it would be. We probably got maybe 1 mile into the trail that has about 11 miles total. There was plenty to do.



This is the part where I send out my plea for help. There will be trail builders every other weekend up to the Safari in May. That may seem like a long time off but it will be here before you know it. Please try to make at least one trail builder this spring if not more. All members are encouraged to attend. I think this is the best part of the club activities. I really got to know a lot of people in the club by attending these weekends. I know gas is expensive and not everyone can take off for the weekend but if you can, you won't be disappointed.

Well, I guess I'll get off of my soap box now. I did want to congratulate Hayward Ball and Don Maxheimer on winning the gift certificates for the Allied Bead Lock wheels donated by Alan Grady. Hope to see them on their Jeeps this year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim & Lisa Catt. Jim is recovering from double hip replacement surgery over the winter time and Lisa for having to put up with him. Looking forward to seeing them again in the spring when he is healed up.

Keep all four wheels down, *Doug Watret*

# A Day on New Salem

By Mark & Chris Schumacher

Saturday, February 16th, 2008, started out as a nice sunny day when my wife Chris and I went to the Pittsfield VFW for a little breakfast and the first Two Rivers Jeep Club run and work day of 2008. Little did we know that by signing up for the detail on the New Salem run that we had indentured ourselves to the slave drivers known as Doug and Don Maxheimer. Doug, being the trail guide for the New Salem trail, intended to see that the trails were cleaned up after the bad winter that had already hit the Pittsfield area. Don simply set a standard for working that was hard to keep up with.

After a great breakfast, with four other Jeeps in tow and Charlie Ater riding with us, we headed out to the trails. Seems Charlie's Jeep was eating fusible links and he had to drive his pickup to the event. We found that Mother Nature had not been nice to the area and that there was lots of fallen timber to deal with. Luckily several of the seasoned TRJC members (insert older here) had taken chain saws along and three of them with saws went merrily to work. We put in a pretty good morning and besides cleaning up after Mother Nature we helped Doug make a new loop on the trail.



Around noon Doug granted us a reprieve and everyone got to enjoy the lunch that they had bought with them while sitting in 52 degree sunshine. After dinner it was more of the same, clearing the trail and cutting another new loop for the trail. An hour or so after lunch the sky got cloudy and the temperature changed but everyone was having a pretty good time and no one slowed down, not even when it started raining a little. Well, the little bit of rain and warm temperatures had some effect on the trail during the day. By afternoon the surface had thawed slightly and became somewhat slick in areas such as hillsides.

A couple of Jeeps had to winch themselves up hill, one had to winch back onto the trail in the second new loop, and one ended up with a crushed quarter panel. No one complained and everyone seemed to have a good time. The worst part of the day was that in the late afternoon we found a lot more downed timber than we had dealt with all day, so we realized that we would be pretty busy at the next work day. All in all it was a great day and I think everyone had a good time.

Next work day I'm going to get to Doug's Jeep and take the batteries out of his cattle prod before we hit the trails though.

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## HEEEELLPPP!

**We have to get the word out about our Safari in May. PLEASE, those of you that are online and frequent 4WD forums, PLEASE post some articles about the Safari on them. This is one way you can help the club. We absolutely have to get the word out about this event and the BLAST. The few of us that do this work can't do it all...we really need your help! If you have any questions about what to post, please contact Dave at [davec@millenicom.com](mailto:davec@millenicom.com).**

# The Trail of Life

by Chief



I don't know about your area this winter, but here in Central Illinois, it has been unique. I understand Illinois is known for its weather variations, but this winter has been a bit much. Actually it started in October. My youngest daughter Melanie got married in October. She wanted to have the wedding at the gazebo in a park where Mrs. Chief and I got married, (also in October). Anyway I advised her she might consider, as we found out, that it tends to get a little cool by that time of year. The gazebo is surrounded by beautiful flowers and is quite picturesque. This is great, we thought, we won't need to buy a bunch of flowers for the wedding, we will be surrounded by the beauty of the natural plantings. WRONG, the night before Mrs. Chief and I were married, there was a hard frost and when we arrived for the ceremony we were greeted with cultivated rows of brown mush which just the day before were beautiful flowers. But not this year, Oh No, not this year, I was all dressed up in a penguin suit and it was 96 degrees on the sixth of October. UGH!!! I hate hot weather, especially in a Tux. Now as winter progresses, we go from a deluge of rain, to 0 degree temperatures to record highs to foot deep snow. Then we might have a little ice thrown in just to keep us on our toes.

I have not had much "Jeepin" activity other than driver assists along the interstate, but we have had some unusual incidents. In a little over a week, we experienced first, a 30,000 gallon ethanol storage tank being hit by lightning and blowing its top which created a little excitement. The kicker to this story is the lightning happened during a snow storm. We had snow plows running escort for us. It was snowing and blowing so hard we could not tell our extinguishing foam from the snow. Next, ten days later, as the snow is being washed away by the inundating of four inches of rain, another lightning bolt, from a thunder storm this time, hit a crude oil tank farm with fourteen oil wells pumping into the tanks and lights up the sky with flaming globes of crude oil. This blast then set off a series of other tanks so we kind of had the Fourth of July fireworks for Valentine's Day. The good thing is, no one got hurt, the bad thing, well, really nothing, firefighters are just like Jeepers, the nastier it gets the better they like it. If it is not a challenge, then it sometimes gets boring.

As I write this article today, we have just had a winter storm watch canceled and a flash flood warning issued. It is hard to keep track of whether to stock up the firewood or build an ark. Apparently the water is going to beat the freezing temperatures this time. Wherever you are, be safe and remember, spring is on its way. Jeepin' is in the air, all is well.

See Ya on the Trail

*Chief*

Words of Wisdom, Thoughts to Ponder:

Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.

Consciousness is that annoying time between naps.

Finally, I have been told, Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.

## *2008 Board Members and Responsibilities*

### Board Members

President	Lee Ator		217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750
Secretary	Jeff Sorensen	jeffsorensen@mchsi.com	815-943-3163
Treasurer	Hamer Tate		217-833-2861
Board Member	Charlie Ater	c8r3@irtc.net	217-742-3275
	Jim Catt	riddle01@comcast.net	815-469-1484
	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
	Walt Gilbert	waltpj@big-river.net	573-324-6464
	Alan Grady	cgrady5600@sbcglobal.net	815-838-8611
Club Founder	Tom Wombles	twombles@adams.net	217-437-4361

### Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & <i>BLAST</i>	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Watret	watret4@royell.org	217-435-7931
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](mailto:trjc1@trjc.com)  
**Club phone:** 630-717-5337 (JEEP) or 866-483-3982 (toll free)

**Membership:** Dues are \$60.00 per year for a family membership. Yearly membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Dues are to be paid by November 1<sup>st</sup> each year with a 30 day grace period. First time memberships accepted after June 1 will be \$30 for the balance of the year. Landowners, Board Members, Trail Guides, and major Committee Chairs receive 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 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: April 15**

Two Rivers Jeep Club  
PO Box 47  
Pittsfield IL 62363-0047

Place  
Stamp  
Here



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**