



# Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 14 Issue 2

April 2011

## Upcoming Events

### May 12, 13, 14: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 4x4 Safari

The Safari is approaching. The trails are on excellent shape and we invite YOU and your friends to attend! If you have not already registered, there is still time. We have openings. This year we've also got a great array of door prizes. Please sign up now, before the weekend if possible. But, if for some reason you cannot, we do allow a small number of on-site registrations. We prefer not to as we must plan for meals but we'll not turn anyone away. Come to our 10<sup>th</sup> spring event and let's go wheelin'! Sign in begins 4 PM Thursday at the American Legion west of town.

### June 4: Off-Road Vehicle Recovery Course

This is always an eye opener for those who attend. Meet at the VFW for breakfast from 7 – 8:30. Class introduction starts at 9 AM followed by on-site recovery techniques. March Schumacher, Steve Gambrell (Chief), and Dave Bell will be teaching it. Their current and previous experiences are with police, fire and rescue and military vehicle recovery training so we have a great set of experts teaching this course with many years experience. Call Mark Schumacher (309-314-3919) to reserve your place now, but if you can't, they will accept walk-ins that day.

### June 18: Father's Day Run and Board Meeting

The ever popular Father's Day run is again sponsored by Durrell and Syndy Miller. This is one of our most popular member-only club events. More details will follow in the next newsletter but please reserve that Saturday for a day full of fun.

*Additional events to be covered in the next newsletter:*

**July 9: 4th run**

**July 23: Trail Builder**

# Dutch Creek during the Member Appreciation Run

By Jen Bell



David Bell can climb rocks, drop off a ledge with 12ft vertical drop, but a stump in the woods can stop him. David will tell you I was driving, but I was not.

Karl Anderson decided to wash his pants in the creek while he was still wearing them.



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## March 19 - Hopewell - by Karl - and Charlie's Version

**Karls' story:** Had a great time on Hopewell. Mike Finlay, his boy Mathew, Gene and I helped Chainsaw Charlie clear a little brush and a few logs off his trails and got to do some wheeling along the way. Some of the spots are fairly challenging and definitely fun. But then I always have a blast when I make it up a hill in one attempt that took Charlie 5 or 6. And I have witnesses so don't believe a word Charlie says. We made many stops and got a lot of history and geography lessons. Too bad I forgot my pen and paper as I'm sure somebody would have found it interesting. Don't you feel sorry for people like



that? Again, LOL implied. We saw paw prints of everything from coyotes to wolves to 30 point bucks, and quite possibly Bigfoot. Charlie may have been stretching it a bit on that one. I don't really see how a monster truck on 66 inch tires could make it through those trails, but hey, it's Charlie's story, he can tell it any way he wants. Looking forward to our next adventure!!

**Charlie's version:** It was a dark and stormy night- oh, wait a minute, I need to shift gears. It was a great day with moderate to warm temperatures and sunny skies, and the largest turnout for a trail builder this year. I'd called Rick, landowner of Hopewell, and gave him a "heads up" the day before. Hopewell is an "easy" trail, but it can sure throw some curves! If you read Karl's write up, you know who went out, so I'll dispense with that. A brief meeting on the Hopewell Indian mound, and off we went. I knew it was going to be a rough day when we had to start clearing brush before we were actually on the trail, but it wasn't that bad. Down the long hill, slide through the steep part, drop into the creek, and- Damn! a tree across the trail straight ahead. Up the creek and around/over the bend, and- same tree, just covering all options. We cut up and removed the trunk leaving the top for another day. Up the bank (need to figure another way up; this one is rutted bad), and down to the long hill up where we see a "widowmaker" leaning across the trail hung up in a tree. I drove up to it (checkin' out the locker- alright!), saw it had to come out or



figure a go-around or both. I sawed on it and dang near pinched the blade good. We scoped out and cleared an alternate path, and Gene charged the new way enthusiastically. He made it up and positioned his Jeep to allow a pull on the widowmaker via snatch block. We pulled the base over to the side of the trail, and being the good guy that I am, I started clearing the leaves and slime out of the ruts. On the third run, I went all the way up and it was Tim's turn. Well, he found some more slime and mud, and took several attempts to do the job. Karl had a pretty

solid track to run in by this time, but he made a spectacular run that had Ol' Blue bouncing from side to side, the big V-8 screaming, and mud flinging to treetop levels. He earned bragging rights to making it up in one try- gosh, it was beautiful to see. Why, it woulda brought a tear to a glass eye!

So went the day. We sorta bypassed several problem areas to address later, but still didn't get off of Hopewell until around 4:00. I had hoped to get up to the McCartney property, but even with leaving problem areas for another day, we had our hands full. In fact, this was strongly reminiscent of an ice storm we had in recent years. It's work, but it's also fun to go out with a group of "Jeep Nuts" that can entertain as they work. Thanks guys, for a great day!

# Two Rivers Jeep Club at Quincy Mall

## Help promote TRJC in Quincy

By Jen Bell

July 15-17<sup>th</sup>

I need up to twenty Jeeps for the weekend! We will pull Jeeps into the mall Friday July 15<sup>th</sup> at 9PM. Jeeps pull out of the mall at 5PM on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot be at the mall for pull-in or pull-out time, it's not a problem. I can meet you before to get your keys. I only ask that you remove your vehicle from any trailers when you arrive. You do not need to stay with your Jeep, there will be someone from the club there at all times. I also need volunteers that are willing to work an information table. I will have some flyers, business cards, and club membership forms. This is perfect timing, right before the *BLAST!*

The mall requires that there are no "leaky Jeeps," so unfortunately if your Jeep likes to "mark its territory" it cannot be in the mall. That being said, all Jeeps must have a tarp under them. If you need a tarp, I have some for purchase.

I am looking for all types: stock to highly modified, old to new, no doors, two doors or four doors. I would like to show a variety to help inform people that regardless of style all Jeeps are welcome to TRJC.

This event is free for TRJC and I would love to have an excellent showing of our club! Please call or email Jen Bell, 217-779-2391, [belljen@comcast.net](mailto:belljen@comcast.net) if you are interested in putting your Jeep in the mall or helping work the information table. Be sure to check the club website for more events like this! If you know of a parade or car show in the area, please let me know! I am also looking into parades in Pittsfield and the Barry Apple Festival.

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## Trail of Life

By Chief

Oh Boy, the Safari is just around the corner. I hope you all have invited all of your 4-Wheeling Friends to come and enjoy the trails of West Central Illinois. Don't worry about the price of fuel, you will get a couple of great breakfasts and dinners you won't have to pay for, not to mention more fun that you can imagine with great people. That should make up for any additional cost of fuel.



I shamefully have been able to only make one work weekend so far this spring but we managed to get Murphy's Law cleaned up pretty well. We even cut back all those pesky and skin-ripping multi-floral roses Murphy has planted around the trail. This was the first opportunity to test out the "New to Me", 2002 TJ Jeep. I have not had the opportunity to do any of the modifications I have planned for it yet, so I was a little skeptical of how it would do. I did get to try it out this winter a little at the river bottoms in the snow but I have not had it on Murphy's Law.

The "Chief's Buggy" was locked on both ends, lifted 6 inches and after 16 years of running the trails, there was a degree of familiarity of what it could do. I did not put my Swampers on the TJ and left the Interco Truxus STS Radials on it. I was really pleasantly surprised on how well it handled the trail. I did get stuck a couple of times, but I am not sure I would not have had the same problem with the Buggy. I have a list of modifications I want to make, but I am not going to "Get er Done" before the Safari. Overall, I was really impressed on how well the basically stock TJ handled the trail. With the Swampers and some lift and lockers, I think it will work very well.

I was really excited the one weekend that I made because it was going to be the first weekend Murphy and I would be able to run our "new" TJ's together. Can you believe the shock and disbelief when Murph told me his TJ was already in the shop?? Well, it was nothing totally major and Murph guaranteed me it would be ready to go by the Safari. It looks like I am just going to have to wait to the Safari to see the new Murph-Mobile.

I got to see Kathleen and Heyward Ball when they came to our Annual Crawfish Boil at the fire station. If you have not ever chowed down on these tasty little crustaceans and would like to try them, let me know and I will make sure to invite you next year. We nearly had a disaster during the Boil. We order the Craw fish on a next day air delivery. They are shipped alive and kept that way until they are dumped into the boiling bath water with potatoes, corn, sausage and spices. Anyway, there were some severe storms the evening when they were to ship, (Imagine that!) and the plane had to be diverted to another airport, then they were put on a truck and were going to be delayed. The 09:15 delivery would be 16:00 (4 pm) instead. Wrong, the dinner started at 17:00 (5:00 pm). A phone call was made to find out where the truck was going to be and an intercept was quickly planned. Probably the first time Crawdads got a ride with red lights and sirens. Just kidding! We were able to intercept the delivery truck and have the crawdads at the station by noon.

Okay, I am going to stop rambling. I explained to Dave Christensen I was late writing this because we have been moving equipment to Marion, Il. to support National Guard Troops working the floods in Southern Illinois. Please keep the residents and the workers in your prayers as well as those who had sustained the death and destruction in the Southern United States. I look forward to seeing ya on the Trail

*Chief*

Words of Wisdom: I smile because I don't know what the hell is going on.....and .....  
He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless dead.

I have special Word of Wisdom especially for Murphy: Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.

## Meet your Board Members - Rick Culberson

Hello to all, my name is Rick Culberson. I live in Pana, Il, which is around a two hour drive from Pittsfield. My wife Shelley and I live on Lake Pana, were we run the Blue Bell Club. Well she does anyway! I am employed by the State of Illinois. I work for DOT inspecting the work and materials that go into our highway systems. I have 31 years in with them so I'm getting close to the retirement date that I have yet to set. When I'm not Jeeping I have various other hobbies to keep me busy. I love taking pictures. Outdoor photography is one of my favorites, will paddle around the shore line trying to find that great shot. Another hobby is model trains. I have a G-scale at the house around the deck and garden and am working on a 1½" scale which is big enough to ride on.



I have been a board member for the last three years. Before that I coordinated the Blast and Safari for four years. I've been with the Two Rivers Jeep Club since 1997 and started trail guiding on Pokey's Run a few years after I had joined the club. Honestly I do not know when I started guiding out there. It has been so much fun, I just do not remember. I have run almost every trail Two Rivers has to offer and have had fun on every one. I have found that the more I do for the club the more of the good folks I meet. On one of my first trips to Pike County I ran a trail called Pike County Adventure. I think it is still part of Hopewell. I will never forget looking up the first hill wondering if I would make it. After all I only had around 300 to 400 miles on this new TJ but my wife Shelley looks at me and said no guts no glory. Up the hill we go never spinning a tire, head swelling double is normal size, and I'm still at it today!

Over the years I have meet so many people and had such a good time that it's hard to remember all of them. One of the better ones is the time Pokey and I were trying to get each other stuck. To this day I still do not know how he did it. I (and the trouble is I do have a picture) had to be strapped in the middle of a field. I still to this day do not know how he got that stump in the middle of the field. And you just had to be there for the cooler surfing at the Motel Pike between 11:00PM and 2:00AM. I have seen Jeeps hiking their tires, motel doors wrenched shut, and have been driving down the driveway with the most god awful noise coming from my Jeep. On inspection had found someone placed between 12 and 15 nylon ties around wheels and driveshafts.

For a while I had a hard time keeping my Jeep running during the Safari, and the Blast. I thought it was the video guy (T.J.) but I now think it may have just been my driving or massive logs (in Jim Smith's case) as I still seemed to break down without him in the Jeep. One year I thought I had it made, almost two days without a break down. Then I go to Murphy's following Gary across a field and somehow I break a brake line. Thank goodness Gary was in front of me. At least his Jeep could stop me. Another one was the Jeep with four people in it and I do not remember their names. They tried a hill down on Pokey's and somehow ended up with the Jeep sitting on the spare tire and rear bumper. Not a one of the four drive tires were touching the ground. Now that was a Kodak moment! The bad part was we made them sit there like that until everyone had pictures. It was funny.

Like I have said, there is just too much fun on these Jeep outings. So all you new people come out and join in on the fun. Trail building is a blast. You do have to work for a few minutes, and I have picture to prove it. But the rest of the time is a blast wheeling. Go on as many trails as you can, and as members we will try to make sure you get through the trail. I know on Pokey's during the rainy season the trail is hard but come middle of the summer when it is dry and almost anyone can drive the trail with only a few bypasses. So come out and introduce yourself and have as much fun as I have had. The club is only what you make it and I for one think I'm going to have fun. Hopefully I will see you all on the trail. Stop and say Hello.

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### New Special Event Coordinator - Jen Bell

Jen volunteered for this position a few months ago. She and Dave, and daughters Taylor and Emma joined TRJC in 2006. They have both helped with the rodeo during the Safari and *BLAST* events. They live in Quincy. Special events include parades and other events that help promote TRJC.



## **2011 Board Members and Officers**

### **Board Members**

President	Lee Ator		217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gwilliam@adams.net	217-285-4750
Secretary	Jeff Sorensen	trjcjeff@yahoo.com	815-790-5433
Treasurer	Hamer Tate		217-833-2861
Board Members	Charlie Ater	c8r3@irtc.net	217-742-3275
	Jim Catt	riddle01@comcast.net	815-823-6663
	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
	Mark Schumacher	m32shoe427v8@frontiernet.net	309-314-3919
	Alan Grady	cgrady5600@sbcglobal.net	815-838-8611

### **Coordinators**

Illini 4x4 Safari & <i>BLAST</i>	Kelly Knoll	cjflyrod25@aol.com	815-978-9802
	Lilly Vittetow	lillysvintage@gmail.com	815-977-7365
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Doug Watret	watret4@royell.org	217-652-9587
Special Events Coordinator	Jen Bell	belljen@comcast.net	217-7792391
Newsletter, Web	Dave Christensen	davecc@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 December 1<sup>st</sup> each year with a 30 day grace period. 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 upon request.

**Next Newsletter Deadline: June 1**

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**