

Two Rivers Tracker

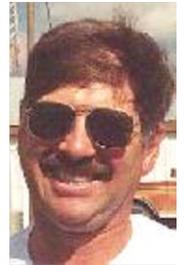
A publication of the Two Rivers Jeep Club, Pittsfield, Illinois

Volume 14 Issue 6

December 2011

The Prez Sez

From Lee Ator



This month we're not ending another year, we're beginning our **TWENTY-FIRST** year as the Midwest's premier Jeep club. It's amazing how far we've come in over 20 years, how much fun we've had and how much we've helped, and become a part, of the community. And it's all thanks to members like you.

Please keep helping by attending our events and telling others of our events. And ask your friends if they would like to join the Club. Many of our new members are here because someone in the club invited them. And for the new members...we welcome you. Come join us for the breakfasts at the VFW where you get a chance to meet other members and talk Jeeps, trails, and just about anything related to wheeling.

A reminder for those existing members **that if you have not sent in your 2012 membership renewal, you must do so by December 31.** A renewal form is included in this newsletter.

If you are a trail guide, helper or special volunteer, and you have not renewed, you need to send in your renewal or you will not be allowed to participate in our events due to insurance stipulations. Please renew today.

All those who have not renewed will have a special sticker on the front of this newsletter reminding you. If you have already renewed but still have the reminder, please let our club Secretary, Jeff, know immediately.

The 2012 event planning is already underway and we already have a winch for one of the grand prizes. New TRJC T-shirts have been designed and will be available. This is going to be another great year for your club.

A Great Year

By Lilly Vittetow, Safari and Blast Coordinator

Wow, I cannot believe that the year is already coming to an end! It's been a fun and exciting year that has kept us very busy. With 2 trail Jeeps now, we've been going wheeling at least once if not twice a month from April through October. With that said, the trails and guides for Two Rivers Jeep Club are the best that we've hit this year! Please encourage other Jeepers to join or at least come try our open events!



With fun memories of 2011, we are already working on the 2012 events. If you are on the TRJC Facebook page, you will know that raffle prizes are already starting to come in! I've been sharing a few of them there, but there are more and we already have a promise for a winch! Please remember our sponsors when looking to replace or upgrade your Jeeps. They support us. Let's do the same for them! If anyone has any suggestions or ideas for the Safari and Blast, please feel free to email (easier to get a hold of me) or call me, I would love to hear them! And don't forget to tell everyone to join us, the more the merrier!

One last time I would like to thank everyone that helped with the Safari and the Blast, you are all the best! I would also like to thank the board members for their support and confidence during the year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

Lilly

Our First Year in the Club

By Karl Anderson

What a great year it's been. Been an off-road fanatic all my life but 2011 was the year I really got to learn what serious four wheeling and great people are all about.

I must have a couple million magazines (according to my wife) saved away in plastic containers in my shop, going back to my grade school days, and they're mostly off road rags. There are plenty of Hot Rods and Car Crafts and Super Chevys but mostly it's Off Road, Four Wheeler, 4 Wheel and Off Road etc. And do any of you remember Pickup, Van & 4WD? Got a few of those too. I can still remember a feature they did called "The \$20,000 Jeep!" I believe it was a CJ-5, orange or gold in color, with V8 Chevy, and probably Armstrong Norseman tires and chrome wheels. (I'd be willing to bet that if I dug around long enough I could find that issue). I seriously doubt if the thing ever crawled the Rubicon or toured Moab, but it sure seemed cool at the time. My buddies couldn't understand my fascination with jacked up Datsun 4x4 conversions, Chevy Luv 4x4's and old Jeeps when there were so many Chevilles, Camaros, Mustangs and Road Runners to drool over in all the car magazines. I loved those too, but seeing real mud tires on a farm truck got me just as excited.

My first real off road toy was a Honda QA-50 mini bike. Pretty much destroyed that thing by the time I was in the 3rd grade. Next was a Kawasaki 100 dual purpose, with high and low range. It

met pretty much the same fate as the mini bike. I know, amazing really, considering how gentle I am on my CJ. (Shut up Charlie). Then came several 3 wheelers and eventually Chevy Blazers, 4 wheel drive pickups and a few Jeeps. The first was a 78 CJ 7 that was my daily driver. It saw some off road action, resulting in a busted rear axle, shucked 3 speed, and one fateful night I managed to land on a pile of driftwood in the river bottoms destroying the bell housing, radiator, windshield and Amy's shoulder. At least she still has her shoulder. I, on the other hand, don't seem to have gained any common sense. If I had a nickel for every pound of mud I've washed off myself and my toys and vehicles over the years, well, let's just say I'd be sitting on my yacht writing this somewhere off the Fiji Islands.

But all that mud running and trail riding was nothing compared to the serious education I got this year from riding trails with TRJC. Luckily I had talked my buddy, Mike Finlay into buying a Jeep too, so I wouldn't be the only completely inexperienced club member this year. Our first club run was on Myer's Mayhem. There weren't a lot choices and since we had already met Dennis one day when he came to our farm to ride, we thought it'd be a good way to break ourselves in to hardcore Jeeping. And Dennis seemed like a good guy, you know, he wouldn't let us get in over heads TOO much our first day. WRONG!! Don't get me wrong, Dennis is a good guy, but he seems to have a sadistic streak. Mike and I both ended up on our sides that day. At least it was only once for Mike. I was dumb enough to follow Dennis' big green slime machine down Hell's Gate. Did you know you could get most of the way down that trail on your side? Trust me, it can be done. Of course it involved straps, winches, and Dennis' never ending chuckling, but you can do it. I also got a lesson in airing down too much. And boy, is it fun changing a tire knee deep in mud on a 70 degree slant. Thankfully, Bill let me use his spare since I was too dumb (or lazy) to pack mine along. Pretty cool considering we'd never met before that day. Speaking of Bill, did you know he dates a crazy woman? Don't believe me? Try following Brenda up a hill. She makes me look downright tame. And while we're on the subject of crazy, ever met Murphy? Nuff said.

Anyway, throughout the year we made as many club runs and trail builders as we could, along with the Blast and Safari. Mike and I can really see a difference in our driving skills, and my wife Amy even got to be quite the Jeep pilot. She got a quick trial by fire education one day on Murphy's Law, running the whole day, start to finish with nary a scratch on her 05 TJ Unlimited. She's never put it on its side or even put a ding in it. Don't worry, I'm still training her. She'll get there someday.

Undoubtedly, though, the best thing about our first year in the club was all the new friends we met. Even when my junk is sidelined for the day, I still have a blast hanging out with the people, watching and learning. And if there's a more fun bunch of nut cases anywhere, I've yet to meet 'em. And hopefully we bring a little bit to the club, even if it's just entertainment for those that enjoy watching grown people doing extremely dumb things. We're good at that. Well, me anyway. And if anybody can think of any way Mike, Amy and I can contribute more to the club, don't hesitate to ask. If anybody needs help on their trails or any type of help organizing events, whatever, let us know.

And to all club members, thanks for making this one of the coolest, most fun years ever.

Trail of Life

By Chief



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you out there in Jeepin' Land. I still like to say Merry Christmas. I know it may not be politically correct now days, but if it wasn't for the Gift of Christ we wouldn't have a "Holiday Season" to celebrate. I hope you all have a joyous time with family and friends in the coming weeks. I really think Christmas should be a time when we who have been blessed, as anyone with a Jeep undoubtedly has been, should try and make a difference for those who have not been blessed quite so much. That is one reason I am so proud to be a member of the Two Rivers Jeep Club. the club has a history of helping others with the resources it has.

Last January at the firehouse we were involved in a rather lengthy search and recovery of a drowning victim. During that time we had over twenty agencies assist us in our efforts. One of those agencies was the Salvation Army. They took care of us from the first day to the last, providing three meals a day and snacks for dozens of workers involved in the search and recovery efforts. On one of the days while a fellow fire chief, a Sheriff's Lieutenant and myself were taking a break, we began talking about how much the Salvation Army was doing for us. We wanted to do something for them, something to help them with their continued efforts to help others in need. Being a taxing body, we cannot make direct monetary contributions. That's when an idea was born. *The Guns vs. Hoses Red Kettle Bell Ringing Contest*. The Lt. mentioned the Sheriff's Office has been ringing bells for years. He thought we might want to engage in a little competition. "Let's just see who can raise the most money during a weekend of bell ringing," was his comment.

The gloves had been dropped, and the challenge was accepted. After nearly a year since the plan was conceived, the first weekend of December, Friday the 2nd and Saturday the 3rd we would meet on the battle field, bells in hand. We would ring the bells from 8:00am to 8:00pm both days. We would man the three locations. Harristown Fire would take the Sam's Club exit, The Sheriff's Deputies would take the Wal-Mart food door and Warrensburg Fire would take the general merchandise door at Wal-Mart. The Salvation Army was facing a deficit of nearly \$11,000 in their collections this year. They really needed some help. I will say it was an educational 24 hours. I think I could go back to college and get my doctorate on human behavior just from what I learned watching people. It was amazing how you could begin to predict who would give and who wouldn't give just by what they were wearing, or by what they had purchased. It is interesting how people can navigate a cart full of merchandise while staring at the ground to avoid eye contact.\

Some people had a bag full of coins just to be able to feed all the kettles they come across during their shopping adventures. They would walk up and pick out a handful of coins and say something like "I have to save some for the next kettle". I was actually encouraged by the percentage of people who donated. Of course we had a media blitz to publicize the event and really played the cops vs firefighter angle. People would tell us they just couldn't walk past a line of firefighters and not give



something. Apparently that was not the case with the deputies because we collected nearly \$1,000 more than they did. I think it might have helped a little in that we had a pretty intense structure fire early Saturday morning and some of the firefighters still had dirt on their faces with the wafting aroma of smoke while ringing the bell. All in all we collected over \$10,200 for the Salvation Army making them the big winner. That amount nearly wiped out the deficit. Harristown Fire collected the most and won the traveling trophy. Just like the Stanley Cup. The contest will now become an annual event. The deputies are vowing revenge next year, but we really aren't worried. As even the deputies stated, "Everyone Likes Firefighters."

Once Again, Have a Merry Christmas
See Ya on the Trail

Chief

Words of Wisdom:

Whenever I am feeling blue, I start breathing again,
If Jimmy cracked corn and no one cares, why is there a song about it?

Two Rivers T-shirts



Jen has designed and ordered some TRJC T-shirts. The first order was via the web but for those of you who missed out or are not online, Jen has a few extras. Contact her if you would like a shirt and she'll see what we have in stock. If you have a specific request, let her know as she plans to order additional shirts around the time of the Safari. All shirts will be available in sizes Child through XXXL. XXL are \$2 extra and XXXL are \$3 extra.

T-Shirts: \$12
T-Shirts (sleeveless): \$12
Hoodies: \$25

Please email belljen@comcast.net or call her (217-779-2391) with orders or questions. Specify the style, color (blue, pink, green, grey, red), size and quantity.



Revised 2012 Calendar - 2 additional events added.

All events are based in Pittsfield, unless otherwise noted.

Special events will be posted on the website and in the newsletter.

Date	TRJC Event	Location	Time*
Feb	4	First Trail Builder of the Season (Weather permitting)	9:00 AM
	18	Board Meeting #1	7:30 AM
		Trail Builder	9:00 AM
		Kickoff Dinner (catered)	6:00 PM
Mar	1	Registration opens for the Safari	
	3	Trail Builder	9:00 AM
	17	Trail Builder	9:00 AM
	31	Board Meeting #2	7:30 AM
		Member Trail Ride	9:00 AM
		Member Appreciation Dinner (catered)	6:00 PM
Apr	14	Trail Builder	9:00 AM
	28	Board Meeting #3	7:30 AM
		Trail Builder	9:00 AM
May	5	Quincy Dogwood Parade	TBD
	12	Registration opens for the 4x4 <i>BLAST</i>	
	10-12	11th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari (open to public)	American Legion 4 PM Thu
Jun	2	Vehicle Recovery Course - <i>On the trail</i>	8:00 AM
	16	Board Meeting #4	7:30 AM
		Father's Day Run & Catered Dinner	9:00 AM
Jul	7	4th of July Run	9:00 AM
	21	Trail Builder	9:00 AM
Aug	2-4	14th Annual 4x4 Blast (open to public)	American Legion 4 PM Thu
	25	Ladies Day on the Trail and a Night at the Movies	9:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Sep	1	Pittsfield Fall Festival Parade	9:00 AM
	22	Annual General Meeting and Board Elections	8:00 AM
		Board Meeting #5	9:00 AM
		Ma Earth Run	10:00 AM
Oct	20	Road Run	9:00 AM
		Board Meeting #6 (2013 Event Planning)	6:00 PM
May 2013	16-18	2013 - 12th Annual Illini 4x4 Safari	
Aug 2013	1-3	2013 - 15th Annual 4x4 Blast	

* Trails leave from the VFW at the posted time.
Breakfast (and socialization) starts about 90 minutes earlier.



Two Rivers Jeep Club

PO Box 47

Pittsfield IL 62363-0047

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

2012 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

I hereby release Two Rivers Jeep Club, landowners, 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. Membership renewals are to be received by **December 1** if you want your name in the club directory. Make checks out to "Two Rivers Jeep Club" or "TRJC".

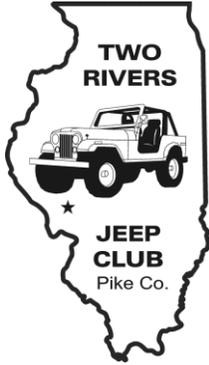
Applicant's Signature _____

Date Signed _____

Office Use Only

Amount Received _____ Cash or Check # _____ Date Received: ____/____/____

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL