

Two Rivers Tracker

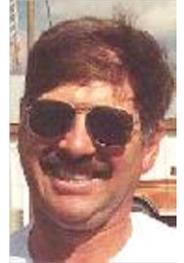
A publication of the Two Rivers Jeep Club, Pittsfield, Illinois

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October 2011

The Prez Sez

From Lee Ator



We're at the end of our wheeling year for the club and it's been a great one. Our events were well attended and we have new ideas and special events that provided opportunities for members to participate,

Between the Safari and Blast we were able to donate a significant amount back to the community. This year we donated \$1,600 to the Pike County Christmas Baskets program and \$1,500 to the Pike County Senior Citizens Council. I wish all those who purchased raffle tickets at the events could see the happiness, and tears of happiness, of the recipients. The Board also authorized \$5,500 for Honor Flight, a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. They transport our heroes to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at **their** memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

I know of no other Jeeping club in the country that gives back as much as we do! Thanks to all of you who volunteered at our events and did the ground work to make this all possible!

Our Annual General Meeting was held last month and Bob Miller was elected to the Board. Welcome Bob and we're glad to see new members are getting involved! We just had our 2012 Planning Meeting and the 2012 event schedule is included in this newsletter. There are already of couple of additional special events being planned. Details and dates will be posted in subsequent newsletters and also on the web page.

Renewals

2012 renewals are due. If you didn't get a renewal form, or you forgot to send yours in, a renewal form is included in this newsletter. With all the catered meals and the fun Jeeping, this is a great value. Please renew today if you have not already done so!

2012 Events

The 2012 event calendar is in this newsletter. Jen and others are working on new events for the coming year and we'll let you know the details as soon as we get the details. Last year we had a first with a display at the Quincy Mall and also participation in some parades. These were well received and plans are afoot to do it again. Try to attend some of these special events as they're really different from our wheeling adventures and they are a lot of fun!

New Board Member

Bob Miller

My wife Heather and I joined the club in 2009. We have two children, Zach 11 and Izzy 8. We all enjoy Jeeping and go as much as we can during the wheeling season. I have been a trail guide on Mongo for the last two years and have met some awesome people along the way. I volunteered to be on the Board to get more involved and help the club in any way I can. It's not too often you find a club that gives so much back to the communities it's based in and one that has the quality of members that we have. I look forward to many more years to come.



[Bob can be reached at miller5@adams.net or 217-779-1462.]

Trail of Life

By Chief

I have been involved in the Fire Service longer than I care to admit. I can say I have enjoyed most every moment of it. Just like Jeepin' there are highs and lows, but the good has outweighed the bad, and believe me there has been some bad. In forty plus years I have responded to the calls of people who were most likely having the worst day of their lives. I, just like every firefighter in the country have seen a lot of things. I know better than to say I have seen it all, but I am no longer ever surprised at what I see.

Well, I had a first just the other night which could be categorized as one of those head scratcher situations. Here is some background information and some insight to the circumstances which contributed to the situation. Number one: It has been extremely dry in the central part of Illinois where I live. Up until last week, we have not had more than a 1/2 inch of rain since the last week of June. The City of Decatur has imposed mandatory water restrictions due to the low water level of Lake Decatur. All of the boat launches have been closed except the main launch at the Nelson Park Marina. Certain basins of the lake are more 4 wheeler friendly than they are boat friendly. A couple of the basins would make "most excellent" mud bog pits. Anyway, I think you have the picture.

Secondly, there was an event being held in Decatur called the Hunnert Car Pileup. The Hunnert Car Pileup is a car show for hot rodders who build their cars and drive them. It draws people from all over the country. Far enough away some people may not know about the water restrictions or the closing of certain boat launches.

Okay, here is the story. About ten o'clock one Saturday night I received a call from a Decatur Fire Battalion Chief asking if we could assist them with our boat. This generally involves searching for a car or a drowning victim with our Side Scan Sonar, but you would really have to try to drown in the lake or river right now. Not to say it couldn't be done, but it would take some real effort. I replied we would be glad to assist him and inquired what we would be doing to assist. He replied, "There is a boat stuck in the mud at the Ivy Hill Park Basin". Okay, this should be interesting, I am now trying to picture what type of boat this could be and just how they managed to get stuck. If they were in water that shallow, why couldn't they just get out of the boat and walk back to shore and call a wrecker? Okay, not practical. Back to the story.

The Chief said a lake maintenance boat would be launched as well and we would be support for them. "Okay" I replied and we hooked up the boat trailer to the tow vehicle and off we went. When we arrived at the launch, the maintenance boat was just heading out. We quickly got our boat in the water and that's when I had the first revelation of what we would be dealing with. I had to jump down nearly four feet from the pier into the boat. This would normally be just a step down. This could be a real

challenge. During the mile or so trip to find the stranded vessel we began to notice the depth finder showing less and less water for us to float in. After we left the main basin, we were operating in less than a foot of water. We actually had to pull our motor up and pole the last 100 yards to the area of the recovery.

Remember, this is now 10:30 at night, no moon and it was dark out there. We located the maintenance boat and could hear his motor revving and in the reflection of the spot lights we could see a thick chocolate milk like mixture being stirred up by his prop. On past the maintenance boat, in the distance, we could make out an unfamiliar silhouette with the tell tale red and green light with a white running light. That was the weirdest boat I had ever seen. What the heck is that? This was not just a boat, it was an AQUA CAR!!! Stuck big time in the silt bottom basin. (This stuff rivals anything Murphy has in his mud pits.) We were not going to be just pulling a slick bottom boat out of the mud, for all practical purposes we would be pulling a car with wheels and tires and all kinds of hangy down stuff through the mud until it got into deeper water.

Always being prepared, we had several hundred of feet of 1/2 inch rope and were able to get both of the rescue boats into a little deeper water where we could drop our motors, then the fun began. Snatchin' an Aqua Car out of the mud. It was like being on the Trail. The maintenance boat tied on to the Aqua Car, we tied on to the maintenance boat. We would then get a little slack in the line and on the count of three hit the throttles. It was just like Jeepin' except instead of slinging mud balls, we were making chocolate milk. The maintenance boat sucked up so much mud it clogged his cooling system and he had to shut down until he could get some water flowing through the motor again. After about a half an hour of tugging and snatchin' we were able to get the car into deeper water where it could move on its own. In actuality, I think if the guy had just put some Boggers on the thing he would have been unstoppable.

Unfortunately one of the two props had broken off the car and it could only manage about 3MPH all the way back to the marina. Once safely back on shore at the marina we found out the couple was from out of town and had been at the Hunnert Car Pile Up. Because they were from out of the area they did not know about the lake restrictions and the closing of the launches. While driving around, they saw the Ivy Hill Park launch and decided to take a spin around the lake. They had been stuck for over two hours. It was almost like the Skipper and Gilligan out on a three hour tour. We managed to get them back on dry land by midnight and the "Little Car/Boat" that couldn't went on its merry way. That was one for the books, another first. I will never be surprised at what people get themselves into.



Have a good off season.

See ya on the Trail..... or maybe in the lake.

Chief

Questions to Ponder:

What do you do when you see and endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown too?

Why are hemorrhoids called "hemorrhoids" instead of "asteroids"?

TRJC 2012 Event Calendar

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	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	VFW 9:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Sep	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: ____/____/____

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