

# Two Rivers Tracker

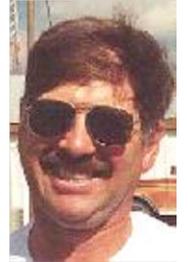
A publication of the Two Rivers Jeep Club, Pittsfield, Illinois

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## The Prez Sez

Lee Ator



This year is quickly coming to an end. Winter is a good time to get our “periodic maintenance” done. I have started on my Jeep with new bearings in the front axle but need new u-joints and a wheel to finish. Then there are always other things to check and fix.

Our club meeting place, the VFW hall, has been sold to the Pike County Historical Society. Gary Williams and I have meet with the PCHS Board. It looks our club will still be able to meet there in 2014 but there will be no breakfast served anymore so you will need to get that elsewhere. Any changes will be posted on the website.

We're looking forward to another great year of wheeling. **MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all of you and we'll see you on the trails in 2014.

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## A Heartfelt “Thank You”!

Almost twenty years ago Barb and I found and joined Two Rivers Jeep Club. One of the draws to this group was how involved in helping the community they were. We've enjoyed our involvement and have always looked forward to the Christmas food baskets. In all these years we never dreamed that we would end up on the receiving end of TRJC's help. *Word's cannot begin to express how much it means to us for the club to step in to cut our winter firewood.* Our heartfelt thanks go out to each and everyone who came out to help on that beautiful September day. Your deeds will not be soon forgotten. Although I have been declared to be in remission at this time I still have a lot of recovery to do after the treatments. Your prayers have been received and appreciated.

-----Carl Seymour

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## A Gentle Reminder

Jeff Sorensen, Club Secretary

I hope everyone is having a good holiday season and “enjoying” the cold weather. **Please send your renewals in if you have not done so. If we do not receive them by January 10th you will not be listed in the club directory and you won't receive a club directory.** We print enough to cover the membership at that time and some extras for new members that join early in the season.

Also, If you have any ideas, concerns or thoughts (good or bad) regarding the club, please let any Board member know. We can't fix problems if we are not aware they exist. Thanks.

# Upcoming Events

**Feb. 1:** Our first Trail Builder of the season. Meet at the old VFW, 8:00-ish, with trails leaving at 9 AM. **Weather may cause a cancellation so please check the web page first.** ***Please note that with the sale of the VFW, breakfasts will no longer be served.***

**Feb. 15:** Board meeting, Trail Builder, and catered kick-off dinner. The Board meeting is at 7:30 AM at the old VFW. Trails leave at 9 AM. At **5 PM** we'll have our annual kick-off dinner which is a great way to meet new friends and members. Please check the web page for any updates.

**Mar. 1 and 15:** Trail Builder weekends. As usual, meet at the old VFW, 8:00-ish, with trails leaving at 9 AM. If you are a new member, consider attending one of these. They're great fun and a lot more wheeling often gets done than work. Heavy shoes or boots and gloves always come in handy. Any changes will be posted on the web page. There will also be a Board meeting at 7:30 AM on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## Charlie's Ramblin's

Charlie Ater



It's that time of year again when we get P O'd at those that claim to have all their Christmas shopping done. I used to know a lady that started her shopping in Jan. and had it done by Sept.- that's unreasonable! Mine won't be done until the last minute and will probably involve prepaid cash cards.

It's also time to really look at the new year to decide what our priorities will be. It goes without saying that family is first for most of us and some families are blessed with kids being Jeep enthusiasts - that makes it easier to move Jeepin' adventures up near the top of the priority list. It's also time to get the modifications done - or repairs (but surely our intrepid drivers won't need any repairs). So who is making plans to go to Moab? Kansas Rocks? Disney? (Heck, I didn't know that Walt was a Jeoper...) Gonna do the Rubicon? Talk it up a little, someone may decide to tag along, and it's been my experience that "the more, the merrier" really is true. And don't forget to put some pics and stories on our website or Face Book site.

We should always be spreading the word about our club. I had a slow leak repaired that has been a bother for - oh, maybe, do I have to tell ya? Months now. I normally go to my local FS or a shop in J'ville, but due to circumstances went instead to FS in Virginia - great service at a reasonable cost. As I got out of Yallar Jeep after pulling it into the bay, I was asked "Ya do any rock crawlin'?" "Yup, been to Moab coupla times." "That guy right over there has been wantin' to build a Jeep in his garage for ten years." Guess who I had a conversation with? And a couple of eavesdroppers. Not everybody wants to "go off-road and tear up" their Jeep, but a surprising number of people will lend an ear willingly.

As this year draws to a close, I'd like to thank the Landowners and all that make up the general membership of the Two Rivers Jeep Club. The Landowners are key in making this one of the most unique clubs in the off-road world. TRJC owns no land yet we still have trails available for us to run most of the year. **THANKS Landowners!** You members need to pat yourselves on the back, too. Sometimes the trail builders are a lot of work (remember the ice storm of a few years ago?), but they're always fun.

You've "tripped the light fantastic" over these trails leaving behind mostly tracks and minimal damage (yeah, "Gilligan's Isle" was an exception). Many of you have stepped up to help at our open events for just the recognition of hearing your name at the last dinner. And there are those that work behind the scenes to keep things moving smoothly with very little recognition (if any). Special recognition goes to Lilly- she's done a remarkable job of organizing the BLAST and SAFARI. Also, Dapper Dave Christensen does a lot of behind the scenes work in Public Relations, the Newsletter, etc. Thanks to all of you!!

*It's also time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year! See you on the trails!!*

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## Trail of Life

By Chief



I will start out saying I am a big fan of snow. I like winter for the most part. Snow is fun. It is great to "wheel" in. All the fun of spinning tires and sliding every which way without the mess created by the Super-Mud of Pike County. Snow, unlike that mud, melts and goes away! Snow actually cleans you tires and wheels and undercarriage. It is pretty awesome stuff. The thing that gets me is the snow always seems to go to the south of us. I am going to have to move to Texas or Oklahoma to get any snow. It just isn't right. It is still early, but I am ready for some snow.

With Christmas right around the corner I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our seasonal activities began with the Annual Nighttime Christmas parade. We have made a few trips around the area to check out the decorations. This coming weekend brings the Annual Guns vs Hoses Bell Ringing Contest between the County Firefighters and the Macon County Sheriff's office. We will man the kettles from 8:00 to 8:00 Friday and Saturday to raise money for the Salvation Army. This will be the third year for the event. The firefighters handily won the first year's contest causing the Sheriff to enlist the help of a local donor with extremely deep pockets to ensure a victory for them the second year. We have been assured there will be no such activity this year. That remains to be seen. In a week or so several of our neighboring fire stations will work together to deliver Christmas Baskets with food and toys to needy families in the area. That is something we always look forward to.

This last weekend we had a couple of our grand-kids stay overnight. I had the obligatory fire burning in fireplace and its warmth felt good as we sat and talked about what we did when the G-kids parents were little. When Mrs. Chief and I got married we blended two families for a total of five kids. Four girls and a boy ranging from 10 to 17 years of age. Needless to say things were not always as congenial as the Brady Bunch but all in all everyone got along. One of the items that always comes up concerning our Christmas Traditions is the hunt for the perfect Christmas tree. Every year we would load up into the family vanster and head out to one of the Christmas Tree Farms in pursuit of that perfect tree. Now this was not on the top ten list of what tweeners and teenagers liked to do on a cold Saturday afternoon. Weather be damned, we will find that perfect tree. Now besides the weather and the possibility of one of their friends seeing them doing something so uncool with their family old Dad had another tradition they detested, but now claim it as a highlight of their holiday season. When the perfect tree was located, I would make them all gather around the tree, hand in hand, and sing a rousing chorus of "O Christmas Tree O Christmas Tree". An act of public humiliation paralleled only to a public flogging or a parent driving them to prom.

One year as we drove into the parking lot of the tree farm it was noted by all a local TV station van was parked in the lot. A local news celebrity was touching up her makeup and scoping out the area. As we parked the family vanster and the kids started piling out of all the doors, her face lit up like the Grinch when his heart grew two sizes. She literally sprinted over to us pulling the poor camera man and all his gear with her.

She began to ask us all kinds of questions about our hunt for the perfect tree ending with, would you mind if I tagged along with you to observe and film your family's quest. The color began to drain out of the previously temperature induced rosy cheeks of the kids and I promptly told the young lady we would be honored to have her join us. The rest is television history. The perfect tree was found, the song was sung, and taped and played on the local TV station for all to see. The kids managed to live through all the humiliation and actually enjoyed the celebrity of the moment though they would never admit it until years later.

There are nearly as many Christmas tree stories as there are Raccoon stories. The Griswolds don't have a monopoly on crazy Christmas happenings. I hope you all have happy memories of Christmas's past you can reflect on and laugh. If you don't, keep looking ahead, we have a promise from the best present ever given, the best is yet to come.

Merry Christmas

*Chief*

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## Can Hardly Wait Until Spring and Summer





# Two Rivers Jeep Club

## PO Box 47

### Pittsfield IL 62363-0047

(630) 717-5337 or (866) 483-3982 email: [trj1@trjc.com](mailto:trj1@trjc.com) web: [www.trjc.com](http://www.trjc.com)

## 2014 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)

- Renewal (\$60.00)  
 New (\$60.00)

OR

**COMPLIMENTARY**

(Choose all that apply)

- Land Owner  
 Board Member  
 Trail Guide  
 Special Volunteer  
 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  
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