



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 16 Issue 1

February 2013

The Prez Sez

From Lee Ator



This is the beginning the club's **21st wheeling year** . We couldn't being to have done all this without the dedicated trails from the landowners and the support and help from so many of our club members. Thanks to all of you. You know who you are!

This newsletter is in a packet with your directory as well as the Safari registration form. We encourage all of you to try and attend this yearly event. This is only one of two times each year we run all our trails. If you're new to the club, you'll find this a great way get to know the members and run some of our trails. And for those who've been in the club a while, it's fun to help new folks learn about their rigs and help them get through some of the obstacles they thought they could probably never do.....and maybe sometime don't. 😊

This is also a chance for us to have fun at the rodeo and raffles. We do a lot of good for the community so it's a win-win deal for all of us.

Please help keep these events successful by talking about the events with your friends. Please post invitations to attend on your forums, bulletin boards, Facebook, etc. If you are a member of another club, invite the other members to come also. We have a couple groups like that each year and they have a good time.

Let's go wheelin!

A special thanks to the **William Watson Hotel, Cherry's Guest House, and Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park**. All three of them offer 10% discounts to TRJC members attending events all year! If you stay with one of them, please thank them for their support.

Upcoming Events

*All events take place at the VFW unless otherwise noted.
Breakfast is available at all trail events starting about 7:00 AM. Trails leave at 9 AM.
Always check the website for trails to be run or any last minute changes.*

Feb. 2: Trail Builder weekend. This will be our first trail builder of the year.

Feb 16: Board Meeting, Trail Builder and Kickoff Dinner. The Board will meet at 7:30 AM. This is open to all members. Breakfast will be available. The trails will leave at 9 AM. At 6 PM that evening the catered Kickoff Dinner will commence. If you are new to the club, please try to attend. This is a great way to meet people and get a feel for the many trails we have to offer. Please RSVP to trcjjeff@yahoo.com or call the club phone.

Mar. 2 and 16: Trail Builder weekends. 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.

Mar. 30: Board Meeting, Trail Ride and Member Appreciation Dinner. The Board will meet at 7:30 AM. This is open to all members. Breakfast will be available. The trails will leave at 9 AM. At 6 PM that evening the catered Member Appreciation Dinner will commence. If you are new to the club, please try to attend. This is a great way to meet people and get a feel for the many trails we have to offer. Please RSVP to trcjjeff@yahoo.com or call the club phone.

Apr. 13 and 27: Trail Builder weekends. Also on the 27th there will be a Board meeting at 7:30.

Apr. 26-28: Quincy Mall Jeep Display. Information will be posted on the website as we get closer to the date. If you have any questions about it, please contact Jen Bell.

May 4: Quincy Dogwood Parade. This is quickly becoming a very popular event. Save the date! Once again, information will be posted on the website as we get closer to the date. If you have any questions about it, please contact Jen Bell.

May 16-18: The 12th Annual 4x4 Safari. This is our premier Jeep run open to the public. We run all our trails, have catered meals, and prizes galore. Your member registration form is enclosed in this packet. Sign up NOW to ensure your spot.

Safari/Blast Donations

At each Safari and Blast, we raise money from the raffles for various charities in the Pike County area. Each year, between the raffles and the funds that go to the Legion for meals (which help them with their operating expenses) we give well over **\$25,000.00** !! There is no other club in the Midwest that does so much for the community that supports them. And this is all due to the generosity of members and non-members who attend our two national events. Besides that, we have an incredible amount of fun in the process.

For 2012, other than the Legion's meals, we donated almost **\$10,000.00** directly to the community.

\$3,000.00 was donated to the Pleasant Hill Backpack Food Program. This provides food for needy children in the community. Each weekend a bag full of food is sent home with kids to provide meals on those days when they do not get a school lunch. This will provide a year's worth of food for many children.

\$2000.00 was donated to the "In for Jim" campaign. Jim has a progressive muscular disease, yet still works as a radio DJ and is a part-time preacher at a small Baptist church in Baylis. The community has formed a fund to equip a mini-van so Jim could remain mobile, and not have to quit his job to take state aid.

\$1500.00 was donated to the Pike County Unmet Needs Program. This program provides financial assistance for food, heating and other life's necessities for those folks who have been laid off or are in need of support, especially with a number of federal and state programs no longer providing funding.

\$500.00 was given to the Pike County Senior Citizens Council which provides transportation to and from hospitals, doctor's offices, nursing homes, etc. For just 6 months in 2012, the Council provided transportation for over 1,200 trips.

\$500.00 was given to the Recycling Club of the Pittsfield Community High School to provide receptacles and recycling in all classrooms.

\$456.00 was given for aid in transportation for a local child who was chosen to participate in the Special Olympics in South Korea.

Last but not least is the 2012 Christmas Basket Program. Our source for this funding is the donation from the homemade ice cream sale provided by Don Maxheimer. In 2012, **\$2034.31** was raised by the donations and was used by the program to provide baskets of food to those elderly and others in need. This is a most remarkable and fulfilling program.

Trail of Life

By Chief

As I write this there are just a few more weeks until the 2013 Two Rivers Jeep Club season opens. Thank goodness, because it seems particularly hard to write about Jeep adventures when there aren't any and while the truce has been holding in the Raccoon Wars it leaves me lacking any subjective material. The break this year seemed to last forever for some reason. I am not really sure why. It has been a busy winter. We set a record for the number of alarms run in 2012 with 244 alarms. Not a lot by some big city standards, but a lot for us considering we serve a population of only 3,000 people. Once again the majority of the calls were medical alarms. We have a Facebook page as well as a webpage if you are interested in what we get ourselves into, have a look. Search for Harristown Fire Protection District; that will get you there.



In November I sent my oldest grandson off to begin his Army Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was able to come back home for Christmas which was both a blessing and disappointment. Blessing in the fact he got to come home for the Holidays and disappointment because we had to send him back. He seems to like the adventure but did note in a letter it was "hard to readjust back to the Army Crap" after being home for a couple of weeks.

I remember one weekend when he was five or six years old he came with us on a Jeepin' weekend. We stayed at Hammett's cabins that weekend which caused him some concern. If you have never stayed at Hammett's, the cabins are furnished complete with magazines, puzzles and other games to occupy your time, afghan throws on the couches with what-knots sitting around. It is just like home as soon as you walk in the door. Anyway, when we walked in the door, his eyes opened wide and said, "we can't stay here" and ran out the door and got back into the truck and shut the door. I went to the truck and asked him why we couldn't stay there to which he replied, "the people who live here will come back and they might shoot us." He thought we had just seen the cabins in passing and just decided to move in. I am not sure how he got that idea, surely nothing I said!

While we were on the trail that same weekend, we were on Pokey's trail. We were going up a rather challenging hill/ravine type place at a snail's pace. Cody was in the front passenger seat observing my driving technique and looking intently out the window for anything that moves. I should preface this by stating Cody was always into creepy crawly things. He had no fear of snakes, spiders, or lizards. He wanted to catch them all. Anyway, while we were inching up this hill he spotted a lizard on a tree stump as we passed and in one fell swoop, popped out of his seatbelt, opened the door, jumped out and was in immediate pursuit of the slithering reptile. Mrs. Chief and I nearly had heart attacks as he scampered off into the woods in his quest. Our screams for him to return to the Jeep finally got him whoa'd as he expressed his displeasure his lizard got away. He spent the rest of the trip in the back seat, double belted in.

Well, anyway he is all grown up now, making us proud. His mother told us that when they were taking Cody back to the airport following Christmas leave they stopped at a Denny's to eat. While they were there a lady came to the table and told him she wanted to pay for his meal and thanked him for his service. What a nice touch.

See Ya on the Trail

Chief

Words of Wisdom:

- Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
- How can there be self-help "groups"?
- Is it my imagination, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

Jeeping is Downright Cheap!

By Karl Anderson

Thank you, all of you, who come to our events and support the community by your purchase of raffle tickets at our two major events!

What are your goals for 2013? Give up on marrying Jennifer Anniston. Trust me, she doesn't return calls to nobodies like you and me. Trust me. Gonna lose 50 pounds? I figure I'll lose so much weight after I'm dead without even trying that there's no sense in going through the agony now. How about doubling your salary? Unless you're in congress, I'd say that's a pipe dream. How about never losing your temper, always being nice to everyone you meet and being the best friend anybody ever met? Screw that!! I've even met people in Jeeps I have no desire to be nice to. Not in the club, of course, but they're out there.

Nope, my biggest desire for 2013, well, the one I can discuss here, is to spend as much time Jeeping and as little money doing it as possible. Think I'm dreaming? Well, I might be but when compared to some of my friends' hobbies, Jeeping seems downright cheap. Here are some examples:

Horses/ I love em. But did you realize those suckers eat even when you're not running them? What kind of crap is that? Our Jeep only burns fuel when we're enjoying it! And the vet bills! When you break something on your Jeep, it's not the end of the world if you put off the fix till you can afford it. If the damage makes it undrivable and you have another vehicle to get back and forth to work, then who cares as long as it's fixed for the next run. If your horse gets sick or injured people kinda expect you to take care of that right away. Something about being humane... blah, blah, blah. And the accessories that go along with horsing around make Jeep parts seem like chump change. Saddles can cost as much as the stupid horse sometimes. Seat covers for our Jeep were about 30 bucks if I recall. And what about the fancy trucks and trailers you gotta have so you don't look like a punk pulling into the big horse get together? I've seen Jeeps hauled in on homemade trailers behind pickups that look like the Jeep might be pulling them home. We came to Jeep, for crying out loud, not drool over each other's trucks! And what about those horse trailer/campers? Some of those go for as much as all our Jeeps put together. And I gotta admit, sleeping in the same trailer as large animals that don't have bathroom manners isn't high on my list anyway.

How about tractor pullers? I have a buddy that spends more on his tractor every year, yes, EVERY year, than a lot of us have in our Jeeps once their pretty much complete. Plus, he spends every waking hour of his free time working on it. Seems reasonable to him and all my other friends like him, though. 10,000 hours of work for 10 seconds of seat time doesn't send shivers down my spine. Let's see, it takes about 3 minutes to air down the tires on our Jeep for a whole day of fun. And we're the crazy ones.

Then you have the Harley people. I love them too, even had a Superglide when Amy and I got married. Traded it in for a daughter and ain't had one since. Of course, my Harley only cost \$4000 in 1984. Harley riders nowadays have that much wrapped up in leather. And the bikes cost as much as a heckuva nice Wrangler. With a lift kit. And big tires. And a winch. I often think maybe someday we'll get another Harley, then I dodge 423 deer in the last 2 miles of gravel to the house and I get over that idea real quick.

And I don't even wanna get started on stock cars. That's like having a second full time job. Plus, you think we spend big bucks on Jeep tires? Stock car racers take 5 extra tires to every race! We have one, count em, ONE spare tire hangin' off the back of our Jeep and we've never needed it. Good thing, too, since it's about 4 inches shorter than the tires on the ground. Really need to address that this year.

Hunting is another unbelievably expensive hobby. Well, it is for some people. I like to hunt and go deer hunting every chance I get, but fortunately I live where the deer live. Deer hunting for me involves walking out into the woods behind my house with the gun my folks gave me 40 years ago, sitting around for a couple hours till I'm sick of sitting around and then walking back to the house. I've met guys from all over the country that pay thousands of dollars for the privilege of sitting around our neck of the woods waiting for deer then walking back to their trucks and driving back to the hunting lodge. I'm thinkin' their wives may not be all that enjoyable to vacation with. Just a hunch.

All in all, I guess it's a good thing we don't all have the same interests. For one thing, can you imagine how much more all our favorite Jeep accessories would cost if everybody on the planet wanted them? Besides that, sometimes the trail seems kinda crowded as it is, God help us if every middle aged guy going through a midlife crisis bought a Jeep instead of a Harley!

Yep, variety is the spice of life and everybody has a right to their own interests, no matter how dumb it may seem to the rest of us. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if people thought I was dumb for the things that make me happy. Ok, I've been called dumb enough times in my life that I wouldn't be surprised AT ALL.

So just spend 2013 enjoying whatever it is you enjoy. Just keep the really weird stuff to yourself.

Charlie's Ramblin's

By Charlie Ater

Happy New Year! Our Jeepin' last year turned out pretty good for most people. I missed a couple of events due to the heat. I just can't handle it like I used to when I was in my 20's or 30's. Some aspects of getting' old really suck! On the other hand, I did buy another Jeep with air conditioning, so I will be able to make all events in spite of the heat. It's taking a fair amount of expense to get the off road capabilities upgraded (Thanks, Dave Bell!), but it will be worth it. I got to looking at my "build" expenses for "Ol' Halfmotor", and I couldn't believe that I spent that much over the years. I guess it's just not as painful when it's spread out over eight years..... I bought it from the infamous Walt Gilbert in April of 2004. *HE* thought he'd used it up! It has served both of us well, and will still be in occasional use - yup, I'm going to keep it for a while longer and "use it up"...

- There's a fine line between hobby and mental illness-

Looking back over the years with the Jeep club, I have many memories of good times. The first Safari I went on I tackled County Line in the rain with an inoperable winch. Walt had Mudders on the beast and that allowed me to run the trail with only one time of gettin' winched. Eight Jeeps

went out if I recall correctly, and four came back. Mine returned under its own power - I was more lucky than good! What's the saying? "Better to be lucky than smart." Something like that.

My first trip to Moab four years ago, with Dave Christensen as our guide, LaSal Dave assisting at times, was full of good times. All of us that went had been in the club for several years and had learned a lot about offroading. Dave gave us some pointers and advice continually, and some of it took hold. When we ran Flat Iron backward after finishing Kane Creek (I still don't like the Intimidator!!), Dave went up a chute that was rocky with some serious ledges, then stopped to come back and spot us up. To his surprise, we just drove right on up like we knew what we were doing. We didn't know that this was difficult, so up we went! Dave's reaction was his well known "Moses" gesture, then a big grin. A lot of what we needed to know in Pike County translated to rock running in Moab.

Running Murphy's Law for the first time I was anxious to do the infamous waterfall. And, as always, Murph was guiding us motioning right while telling us "Left, Left, Left"... Some things never change.

Running at the old Rockport Off Road Park- what a treat to have a challenging place to run trails in our backyard! I loved going down there and working on the trails. I was into ATV's when it opened, and my buddies and I made a lot of trails - most of which Tom appropriated for Jeep trails. Lance, Sam, and I decided to open up this one long gully for ATV's and went to work on the head end. After hearing chainsaws running further down, we went to check it out to find Tom Wombles and Walt Gilbert opening up the same gully from the other end. It was known as the "Wolf's Den" and saw a lot of action in Top Shop competition and during "The Ultimate Adventure". RORP was where I met most of the more senior members of the club, including Dave Christensen. (That was when his motorhome got stuck in Tom's yard - something about the four wheel drive wouldn't work...)

Watching new people come into the club with no skills off road and developing into drivers of considerable skill has been one of the greatest rewards of being in this club. I remember one young lady that had no experience at all, but she had a Jeep with BIG tires (well, they were wide). Over the years, she has become a very capable driver with a nicely built Jeep. She finally allowed her significant other to go out on the trails with her and now he's a Jeep nut too.

Another member had a Jeep and no place to run- well, he has the "Anderosa" that is a fun place to spend a day. Karl was a member for a full year before his business allowed him to make an event. He's provided a lot of entertainment for us and it turns out he drives a Jeep pretty good on land and in water. His writing skills are tops- he can spin a yarn like nobody else.

I wish I could recount all my great memories resulting from my association with the Two Rivers Jeep Club, but that's an impossibility. I have great memories of many happenings - my first flop on Meyer's Mayhem (Dennis is still laughing at that!), a cute little blond offering me some licorice and asking "Where's that other big kid at?" (referring to Lora), conquering "Rock 'n' Roll" on Lake Shore Drive, ripping a sidewall from tread to rim on my "easy" trail, building a fence for Rick (I wonder if it's still standing?), watching colts run as they discover their "legs", seeing a Bald Eagle on the way to the trail, DROPPING into Six Mile Creek when the sloped entry had washed away..... Oh Yeah, lotsa good memories. Now is the year to make some more!

- Don't worry about what other people think; they don't do it very often anyway!

2013 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	hltate51@gmail.com	217-833-2861
Board Members	Charlie Ater	c8r3@irtc.net	217-742-3275
	Dave Bell	taboocustoms@comcast.net	217-316-3039
	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
	Alan Grady	cgrady5600@sbcglobal.net	815-838-8611
	Bob Miller	miller5@adams.net	217-779-1462

Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & <i>BLAST</i>	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	davec@millenicom.com	630-886-6412

TRJC Web Page: <http://www.trjc.com/>
Club e-mail: 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 1st 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: April 15