



Two Rivers Tracker

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

Volume 19 Issue 1

February 2016

Upcoming Events

*All activities take place or start at the WBBA radio station building otherwise noted.
Trails leave at 9 AM. Always check the website for trails to be run or any last minute changes.*

Mar. 5, 19, Apr 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. We always need help to get the trails ready for the Safari and Blast.

Apr. 2: Board Meeting, Trail Ride and Member Appreciation Dinner. The Board will meet at 7:30 AM. This is open to all members. Trails will leave at 9 AM. At 5 PM the free 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 trjceff@yahoo.com or call the club phone.

Apr. 30: Board Meeting, and Trail Builder. The Board will meet at 7:30 AM. This is open to all members. Trails will leave at 9 AM. Bring work gloves and boots as there may be mud! This will be the second to the last Trail Builder before the Safari so we'll need all the help we can get.

Safari and Blast News

The 15th Annual 4x4 Safari will be held May19-20. Registration fees will be the same as previous years but we are increasing the Late/Walk-in fees from \$15.00 to \$50.00 More and more people are either walking in the day of registration or waiting until the last minute to send in registrations. This is causing issues with ordering enough food and providing sufficient seating space. With the higher Late/Walk-in fee we hope to discourage that so we can plan for the right attendance. To avoid the late fee, get your registration in as soon as you can.

Please invite your friends or members of other clubs to attend. A copy of the non-member registration form is included in this newsletter. Safari information and a registration form is also on our website at <http://www.trjc.com/Events/4x4Safari/index.htm>

Trail Guides Needed

TRJC members, we need your help. We're looking for members in good standing who would want to be Trail Guides for the 2016 Jeep season and beyond. We need people who are willing to make a commitment to attend several times per year at trail builders, events, and trail rides. There **are** benefits, like free attendance at events. If you are interested please contact Rick Culberson (rick1@consolidated.net) or Joe Lennon (joelennon98@gmail.com). Training and mentoring will be provided. Trail Guides can be men or women so don't let your gender hold you back! PLEASE consider helping.

New Trails

Two new trails are being added this year:

Capps Canyon 4+: The scenery is very familiar as it is close to Dutch Creek. Don't let this fool you. You WILL be needing your lockers and body armor as we crawl through the nasty tight v-notches. Pick the wrong line and you will be on your side having to winch your way out. You also may need a spare seat cushion climbing Three Wise Men Hill and the nose-standing descent into Mr. Freeze. It seems inevitable that we will have too much fun and someone will get a little wild and break something. This is a very demanding trail on drivers and machine.

Poor Boy 1+: This trail started in 2015 using some easier parts of Dutch Creek with some new additions. There will be more built in 2016. This 1+ trail traverses hills and hollows plus some creek hardwood timber and open pasture lands. It's a nice beginner's trail or a relaxing day for an old pro.

The Prez Sez

Lee Ator

As I write this it is only 12 days to our first Trail Builder. I hope everyone has renewed their membership. We need that done before you go out on any trail for insurance reasons. Even those who get free membership need this done.

We have a new trail on the Capps farm that sounds like it will be a tough one, probably 4+ rating. The Poor Boy trail is new also and we'd like to keep it at a 1+ rating.

As always, please promote TRJC to anyone you know or meet that has a Jeep or is interested in off-roading.

I hope everyone has done better than me at getting their Jeep ready. I still have work to do on mine so I'll sign off here. Hope to see you on the trail real soon!

Karl's Rambling

by Karl Anderson

Well, our long national nightmare is almost over.. Jeep season starts this coming Saturday!! (Actually, by the time you read this we will probably have had our first run. I don't mail out the newsletter, I just submit my brain dead ramblings to fill up space.)

I hope everyone survived the holidays without any regrettable incidents. No fist fights at the Thanksgiving table, no drunken relatives hauled off to jail etc..... Those things are always fun to look back on years later but they tend to be situations that really suck to go through when they're happening. I also hope you all got everything you ever wanted for Christmas. I was mostly happy with what I received except for one thing. I got a sweater. I wanted a screamer. Oh well. Like Cubs fans always say, there's always next year.

Speaking of the Cubs... I also came very close to my ultimate goal, but fell a tad short. I wanted to turn the 350 in my CJ into a fuel injected, hill climbing, non-sputtering smooth running trail monster. After changing my mind about 42 million times, ie 5.3 swap (lots of work), after market EFI conversion (lots of money), or just find the parts from a factory TBI system, I finally had the decision made for me. Jay Ater, Charlie's boy, called me a couple weeks ago and said he had a lead on a used Holley Pro-Jection setup that he had previously owned that might be coming up for sale. Well, a couple days later he found out it was for sale and for how much and I sent the check for him to pick it up and it is now in my possession and waiting to be installed. Finding the time will be the only issue now. I'm sure I'll still be carbureted on the first couple of runs, but hopefully that will be it.

Santa's Jeep shop must have been really backed up because I also didn't get the shackle reversal I wanted or the new front bumper or the transmission swap either. My Turbo 350/NP 205 setup isn't as low geared as I would like but Offroad Design in Colorado has an adapter that will allow a 700R to be installed which will result in a 20% lower first gear. They also have a twin stick conversion for the 205 which will make the Ol Brown CJ a lot more agile once I learn how to use it. Of course, all these things cost money so I considered starting one of those GoFundMe accounts to see how many of you would like to donate, but I figured most of you would just say Go####Yourself, so I'll be slow making those mods too.

I, like most of you, am anxious to hit the trails for the 2016 season and look forward to hanging out with the coolest people ever dumped onto this beautiful planet of ours, so fire up those Jeeps, load up the coolers, make sure the tools, spare parts and bug spray are all tucked into their rightful places and let the games begin!

Trail of Life

by Chief

The start of this TRJC season will be the 20th year Mrs. Chief and I have been a member of the club, 1996 to 2016. Time sure flies when you are having a good time. Story time with Chief coming up.

I remember making the first trip over to Pittsfield to attend the Jeep Jamboree USA in 1995. It had rained for three days and rained on us the entire 100-mile trip. I think the total amount of rain was around seven inches. I had my pretty much bone stock 1992 YJ with what I thought were some pretty “bad ass” Firestone mud tires. More about that later. My son John and a friend of his came along in John’s CJ7. I was a total novice. Some would argue I still am but the years of perseverance has to account for something. Anyway we stayed at Pine Lakes in what was called the Bunk House. A small storage shed with a double bed, a set of bunk beds and a table. Oh, it had a ceiling fan with a light also. Really it wasn’t all that bad and we stayed there for several years of “Jeepin” until we were able to get a room at the Pike Motel with all the cool people.

To be honest we really didn’t know what to expect. Sure the Jeep Jamboree brochure made things look okay, but we just weren’t sure what we were getting ourselves into. When we went to the Legion for sign up it was pouring rain and guys were coming in wet and covered with mud with the look of impending doom on their faces. There were Jeeps in the lot as big as the cabin we were staying in. I was not sure if I had bitten off more than I could chew but we were here and we were doing it!!

I signed up for a trail called Hopewell Views and a trail called Black Oak. Like I said I was a novice but during that first event I learned a lot, and got the Jeepin' Bug. I found out Firestone Mud tires are not what they were billed to be. Pike County has a type of mud unlike anything I have ever encountered. The consistency of a rich chocolate icing and the holding power of Gorilla Glue. I learned my son’s stock CJ7 could go almost anywhere he wanted while my YJ was a weak kneed sissy. I experienced the thrill of acceleration on the business end of a tow strap and what happens when you lock up the brakes on a steep downhill with a with turn at the bottom. I discovered that a Jeep could lay over on its side with relative ease if you turn the wheels just a little the wrong way.

I could go on for a long time about all I learned that first trip but I may need something to write about later. I do know that what I experienced caused me to join the club the following year and it has been a great 20 years since. There have been friends come and go as the Trail of Life dictates, but the focus of the club has been consistent. TRJC demonstrates a commitment to a Family Friendly Jeepin' environment, a commitment to the community which so graciously welcomes us and a commitment to each member to provide a safe and enjoyable Jeepin' time. I look forward to the next twenty years.

See Ya On the Trail,

Chief

The First Trail Builder of the Year

by Warren DeWolfe

It is finally here! The TRJC season has officially begun and it felt good to be back in Pike County. I always look forward to this day, it means so many good things are to come. I get to re-connect with friends and family, work out any off season kinks and modifications. Figure out what still needs to be done to the Jeep and most importantly connect again with people who are crazy like me. These times on the trails are a way to unwind, get away from the grind of daily work life. These little breaks each upcoming month help to keep me sane.

For the first club trail builder we had around 12 Jeeps show up at last count. We ended up running two trails, Meyer's Mayhem and the clubs newest trail Capps Canyon. I chose to ride out and help clean and clear Capps Canyon. I had every intention of keeping Mudd Butt off the trail as I know firsthand how difficult and challenging it can be. Eric Williams did a great job guiding us around so we did not get into any of the heavy stuff, especially since we only had three Jeeps.



Capps is great with some timber but not too much so it's like an obstacle course. The hills climbs are going to be tough but great. I am glad we stayed out of the V-notches this time as I wasn't ready for them. Since the trail was soft but not too bad we decided to just meander around looking for spots to clear and to make some new trails on some newer ground they had not seen before. It was a great time just walking the trails and clearing brush and downed trees. Since we were staying out of the V-notches and out of the tougher more challenging areas I took the Jeep into the woods. I have to say it was some of the easier wheeling I have done in a while. Even with an open diff Jeep it went well.



Shortly after lunch and in the second half of the day my luck ran out. I officially became the first casualty of the 2016 Jeep season. While going up a small climb and at a low speed and, if you know me, that is hard for me to keep my foot off the skinny pedal! We all heard that ugly sound....Pop! Turns out those 4.88 gears are essential for driving in 4X4.

So thanks to Brenton, Dave, Eric and Travis I got out and earned a free taxi ride to the shop. After an hour or so of yanking the axles and a chewed up ring gear, I got to get on the road home to my family. It is these things that I love about this club and its members. No one is left behind, no one is left in a bind. Every effort is made to help get you on the road home.



This is going to be a year of fidgeting for me as I made a vow to my family that I would only be down once per month and not my usual twice a month for every club event. That will give me some weekends each month with both of my families, it will be hard but just like with any family. Even though you're away for a bit, you pick up just where you left off and it's like you never even left. I have to say WE have the best group of people I know in the Jeep community. I know many Jeep people outside this club who are great people and will help you out as they can. But I do know TRJC is the best in my eyes hands down.

To everyone out there, be safe this new season I look forward to seeing you again this year and I hope to make some new friends. Until next time, God bless!

Late Newsletter Mailing

To save postage, this newsletter is included in the package with the Safari registration form and the club directory. Due to other commitments, we needed the articles early, before Feb. 7, but the Safari registration form package with newsletters and directories won't go out until around March 1. So if some of the articles seem a little dated, that's why.

2016 SAFARI

May 19 - 21

NON MEMBER Registration Form



1 Driver's Information

Applications will be accepted by date of postmark. Event details will be sent with registration confirmation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

E-mail: _____

2 Vehicle Information and Trail Preference

Maximum wheelbase: 116". To protect the land, no full size trucks.
Maximum tire size: 44". Trail restrictions apply to vehicles with tires over 35".

Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

Trail Preference: 1 - 2: _____ 2 - 3: _____ 3 - 4: _____

3 Fee Schedule

Vehicle and Driver Registration \$ 130.00

Passengers 10 and older (\$70.00 each X # _____) \$ _____

Passengers under age 10 (no charge # _____) \$ FREE

Late registration (T-shirts may not be available) (add \$50.00 after May 1) \$ _____

4 T-Shirts

T-shirts are \$15.00 each. Enter the quantity for each size.

___ Small ___ Medium ___ Large

___ X-Large ___ XX-Large ___ XXX-Large (# _____) \$ _____
\$2.00 extra



5 You must complete and sign the second page of this form

Total \$

Do not send cash.

Make checks payable to **Two Rivers Jeep Club**.

Check in use only (do not write here)

Extra Passengers _____ Balance Due \$ _____ Cash Received \$ _____ Check # _____ Initials _____

2016 SAFARI

May 19 - 21

Two Rivers Jeep Club, Pittsfield, Illinois

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION



Please read and sign at the bottom of this page.
By signing you agree to the terms and conditions that follow.

- All occupants of the vehicle must be registered. Signed waiver of liability will be required at event check-in.
- All drivers must have valid drivers license.
- All trail vehicles must carry liability insurance and be licensed.
- Valid proof of insurance is required at check-in. Without proof of insurance you will not be allowed on any trails.
- No open headers. All vehicles must have an exhaust muffler.
- Tires can be no more than 44", based on DOT tire lettering. Not all trails will be open to vehicles with tires over 35".
- No full-size trucks. For example: K5 Blazer and Bronco (78 or later) are considered full size. Bronco IIs are OK
- Vehicles will be inspected at registration and **must be off the trailer.**
- Absolutely no alcohol while on the trails.
- No pets allowed on the trails.
- Firearms or fireworks are prohibited.
- Each vehicle must have at least one person 18 years of age or older who will be responsible for occupants of the vehicle.
- **Vehicle must be equipped with properly mounted tow hooks or substantially mounted pull point (front and rear).**
Tow hooks must be either factory mounted or mounted with two grade 5 or grade 8 bolts each.
- I understand that the Two Rivers Jeep Club cannot be held responsible for any damage that may occur to my person, occupants or vehicle while attending the Two Rivers Jeep Club Illini 4x4 Safari.
- I understand that any violation of these rules will result in the termination of both my own participation and my passengers' participation in the Two Rivers Jeep Club Illini 4x4 Safari and the forfeiture of all registration fees.
- I agree to abide by the rules, guidance, and instruction of the Two Rivers Jeep Club Illini 4x4 Safari.
- I agree to abide by the principles of Tread Lightly!, Inc.

Driver's Signature and Trail Vehicle Insurance Information Required

Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature of Driver: _____ Date: _____

**You must bring proof of liability insurance with you to check-in.
Without proof of insurance, you will not be allowed on any trails.**

Refunds may take 4 - 6 weeks to process. **No refunds after May 1.**

Do not send cash! Make checks payable to "Two Rivers Jeep Club". Please return this form with payment to:

Two Rivers Jeep Club
4x4 Safari
P. O. Box 47
Pittsfield IL 62363-0047

2016 Board Members and Officers

Board Members

President	Lee Ator	tamara.ator@gmail.com	217-437-5221
Vice President	Gary Williams	gswilliam@live.com	217-430-2314
Secretary	Jeff Sorensen	trjcjeff@yahoo.com	815-790-5433
Treasurer	Hamer Tate	hltate51@gmail.com	217-833-2861
Board Members	Karl Anderson	andersonkarl99@yahoo.com	217-440-8191
	Kaye Iftner	info@pikeil.org	217-285-2971
	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
	Warren DeWolfe	warrendewolfe@gmail.com	630-849-8082
	Joe Lennon	joelennon98@gmail.com	217-836-4996

Coordinators

Illini 4x4 Safari & <i>BLAST</i>	Lilly Vittetow	lillysvintage@gmail.com	815-218-3022
Trail Leadership & Maintenance	Rick Culberson	rick1@consolidated.net	217-562-4145
Special Events Coordinator	Brian Kirby	bkirby@doylemfg.com	217-617-3672
Newsletter, Web, Mailings	Dave Christensen	dave102@bluesky9.net	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

