



# TIRE TRACKS

**Jeep Expeditions, Inc.**  
PO Box 12862 Scottsdale, AZ



**Join Today:** <https://jeepexpeditions.regfox.com/jeep-expeditions-new-member-registration>

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## Next Meeting Jan 2020 — Location:

Painted Mountain Golf Resort  
6210 East McKellips Road, Mesa, AZ

## Tire Tracks 2019 Publication Schedule

- Q2 2019 - April 2019
- Q3 2019 - July 2019
- Q4 2019 - October 2019

For article submissions please send to:  
[jeonewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:jeonewsletter@yahoo.com)

## Follow us on social media, click below:



Visit the Forum link on our website for current club information

**FORUM (Members Only)**

## Board Members

- Chairman** - Bill Solley
- Vice Chairman** - Philip Taylor (Nightcroft72)
- Treasurer** - Philip Taylor (Nightcroft72)
- Secretary** - Kevin Thornton (gouacats)
- Director & Founder** - Mike Fissel  
(SteelPonyCowboy)
- Director California Chapter** - Russ Chung
- Director Texas Chapter** - Seth Trout (troutseth)
- Membership** - Bill Solley and Philip Taylor

Jeep Expeditions is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Arizona. Our members are dedicated to the exploration of this great land for the educational and historical value, geology, paleontology and other natural scenic beauty that can be experienced off road. Our expeditions develop a camaraderie with people who share the same interests and love to escape the confines of civilization even if only for a few days. Jeep Expeditions and its members adhere to the standards of Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace.



## Chairman's Corner

### Trip Leading - A Fun Filled Adventure

Our club has grown to almost 125 members this year with more diversification than ever. We have singles, married, families and young gunners to seasoned retirees ranging in age from 23 to 81, representing 19 different states and 5 countries. It is EXCITING every time we add new names to our membership roster, and then watch how active these members become. They are active in forum logons, asking and answering questions, contributing ideas, signing up for trips, participating in group buys and recommending possible future trips. While these things are all extremely positive as the club continues to grow and evolve, we are still coming up short in one critical area, the MOST important aspect of our entire club - TRIP LEADERS – without which we would be no more than a virtual club talking about all things Jeep on the internet but never getting out and hitting the trails together.



Just look back at the trips we completed in 2018 and have already completed or scheduled for 2019. Over twenty-eight individual and varied adventures with each and every one a premium expedition to some of the most beautiful and interesting locations in the United States and Canada. These amazing trips and expeditions are the reason Jeep Expeditions was formed back in 2007 by a small group of Jeep-owning individuals seeking to explore and experience some of the best four wheeling adventures to be had. Reading about them and viewing their pictorial highlights on our public forum is probably one of, if not the main reason **YOU** joined Jeep Expeditions, right?

These fabulous trips were not created simply by copying others' accounts of off roading and overlanding but rather through the hard work and diligent efforts of a very small group of our members dedicated to bringing everyone in the club the most unique and varied experiences that they could create. But herein lies the problem. Of our 125 plus members, we have fewer than ten members who are repeatedly leading and co-leading our trips. As our expeditions are the heart and core of the club, we desperately need new members to join in to help us create, plan, develop, organize and lead.

How do **YOU** do this? Could **YOU** be a trip leader? Being a member for four years I had participated in trips every year but the thoughts of leading a trip were "I don't have that kind of experience, I wouldn't know where to start." Picking a destination, studying maps, creating GPX files and routes of the trails, schedules, logistics, stops, campsites, reservations, safety considerations - what if I get lost, lead the group onto a dead end shelf road with no way back down, encounter a raging storm that turns the roads impassable or a hundred other unknown "what if's"? All certainly good reasons to say "not me, let someone else take the responsibility; I'll just keep signing up for trips and following along". *Continued on Next Page*



## Chairman's Corner (Continued)

Easy to do, but if every member took that attitude, we'd quickly have no trips scheduled and the club membership would soon wither away. Not a viable option that I wanted to see happen so this is how I took the leap.

It may not be the answer for everyone but it's working for me and I've never had more fun by doing it. The first step up was for "The Return to Utah 2018" trip. Nightcroft72 (Philip) and I had been discussing how to get more trip leaders to volunteer and we decided it was time to take the plunge ourselves and lead by example. Instead of just a single trip leader doing everything, we came up with the idea to co-trip lead and share the planning and responsibilities (as well as the criticism when all went to Hell - a smart management technique we both learned years ago). With our love of Utah it seemed the perfect place to start. We called on several old time members including AzJeep4Me - - Jim - - to discuss our ideas and get suggestions as to where to go, possible routes, sights to see, potential problems, etc.

From those discussions we laid out a trip plan beginning with 3 days of trail running in Moab then up through the San Rafael Swell, west and then south through the Dixie National Forest, Grand Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, ending our last night in Kanab. Did all go smooth and according to our initial master plan as we had envisioned? Not quite, as the first night out of Moab, Mother Nature moved into Utah, dropped the temperatures, bringing wind, ice and snow continuously for the next 4 days ending with the coldest night of all in Bryce at 15 degrees. It even froze the water inside the interior mounted Rotopaxs. BUT – it concluded in Kanab as one of the best trips ever, with the whole group bonding, staying flexible, adapting as needed, pitching in together and maintaining a positive attitude. As we sat around our campfire the last night, there was pretty unanimous agreement that the adversity was most likely the reason for such an unforgettable adventure. All in all, this was about the best any trip leaders could ask for on their maiden outing.

So as the call "**WE NEED TRIP LEADERS**" goes out again, please look at our scheduled trips for 2019 and 2020. If one grabs your attention, contact the trip leader or one of the co-leaders and offer your help to join in, be a part of it and learn how it's done. In no time at all, you will be posting up your own expedition and asking for co-leaders to assist you. For the 2018 Colorado expedition, four of us (Ron & Richos too) collaborated to organize and manage the trip, so leading is not limited to any specific number of people.

**Your Chairman,**

**Bill Solley**



## Founder's Forum

Mike Fissel (SteelPonyCowboy)



Over the last few weeks I've been pondering the value of membership in Jeep Expeditions. Your yearly dues are still only \$40 and the remaining five Charter Members pay \$50.

So what do you get for your \$40 and where does it go?

1. Free club decal when you join
2. Free trip decals when you go on trips
3. We cover the 1st \$15 for Cal4Wheel for those members who join or renew
4. We donate to Tread Lightly, Blue Ribbon Coalition and others orgs that keep your trails open
5. Club pays for Group permits normally for trips that require them under \$100
6. We create hand out materials to attract new members
7. We subsidize mailing small items to you when necessary
8. The ever increasing costs to maintain the forum and website are paid for
9. We buy books, maps and GPS files for complex trips
10. We plan GREAT trips every year, an average of one or more a month
11. We cover the cost of our meeting room at the annual meeting
12. We have group buys from time to time to save you money
13. We have discounts arranged with 4WD and 4Wheel Parts to save you money
14. Even though we are a non-profit we have office, postage and other expenses to pay
15. We give back to the community by participating in clean up events and Toys for Tots
16. You won't find a better Jeep adventure group anywhere else in the world!

For instance, a typical off-road jamboree will cost you \$500 to \$1000 or more for basically two to three days and you probably will not know anyone there. Our 4 to 8 day average adventures cost you nothing normally and you know everyone there. We have smaller, more intimate groups than the huge jamborees and we are all friends.

We gave away nearly 50 bikes to the Maricopa Sheriffs Toy drive last Christmas, the largest donation that I know of by any off-road club in AZ.

Last year if you took part in our Midland Micro-Mobile GMRS group buy you not only got a 25% discount but you also received a \$25 subsidy courtesy of the club. The total savings per member was more than you paid for 2018's dues! I am surprised that every member did not take advantage of this fantastic offer but we have a bit more than half of our members with Midland Micro-Mobile GMRS radios in their Jeeps now and they are loving them way more than CB's.

Members have told me that their discounts at 4WD.com and 4Wheel Parts saved them \$50, \$100 and one person a couple years ago saved over \$700 when he bought everything to build up his new Jeep.

We provide more value to our members than any other club, but to take advantage of that value you need to be active on the forum and participate in at least one trip a year. That trip can be a day trip or two, an overnight trip, one of our awesome 4 to 7 day or more expeditions or one of our Epic trips.

The clubs continued success as we go through year 13 and the value that you receive is determined by YOU!



## Jeep Expeditions

**Our organization affiliations that help promote stewardship of our public lands**



Promoting responsible recreation through stewardship, education and communication. Plus we get out there and live it.  
<https://www.treadlightly.org/>



Cal4wheel was formed in 1959 by some four-wheelers who were getting tired of their trails being closed. Fast forward 50+ years and the battles are the same. The desire to play on public lands is as strong as ever, and more people than ever before have some form of off-road vehicle. Our opponents have also been busy those 50+ years and are just as strong now as they were in 1959.

<https://cal4wheel.org/CA4WD/Default/CA4WD/Default.aspx?hkey=20744bcb-0dd7-4804-b243-08f5bfa1b5d6>

As a Jeep Expeditions member, when you join Cal4Wheel the club will pay \$15.00 of your yearly \$50.00 membership fee for you. To join or renew your 2019 membership and receive the club discount, please send your \$35.00 payment to us using one of our 3 methods of payment:

Ways to Pay — Or Mail Your Check To: PO Box 12862, Scottsdale, AZ 85267

[PayPal@jeepexpeditions.org](mailto:PayPal@jeepexpeditions.org)

[Zelle@jeepexpeditions.org](mailto:Zelle@jeepexpeditions.org)



Sharetrails.Org/BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC) is the leading national coalition of organizations, businesses and individuals that:

- Provides leadership in responsible use
- Promotes balanced resource conservation
- Is recognized by the general public, the media, and elected officials as the leader in promoting common sense and an equitable approach to recreation and access issues

<https://sharetrails.org/mission-vision-values/>



## 2019 Q3 Trip Information



### Colorado Rocky Mountain High II July 20 to July 27

**Trip Leaders:** Bill Solley and Philip Taylor (Nightcroft72)

#### **Trip Details:**

Day 1 - July 20 - Travel from Phoenix to Durango - 425 miles

Day 2 - July 21 - Travel Durango to Gunnison - establish BASE CAMP in Gunnison - 170 miles  
Option #1 - visit the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area  
Josh Weber with Gunnison Off Road Club would like to lead us to fun roads in Hartman Recreation Area about 10 minutes from Gunnison. This is a very scenic area.  
Most of the roads are easy, but Josh can lead us to some more challenging roads if we have time.

Day 3 - July 22 - Run trails E/NE of Gunnison - (Massey #30,31,32,44 & 45)

Day 4 - July 23 - Run trails E/NE of Gunnison - Gunnison east to Parlin. CR76 Quartz Creek Rd to Pitkin. FR765 Cumberland Pass Rd. to Tin Cup. CR765 Tin Cup Rd. to Taylor Park Reservoir. Then depending on time either Taylor River Rd. SW to Almont & Gunnison OR further north from the reservoir to Rocky Brook Trail or Cement Creek Trail south to Almont/Gunnison

Day 5 - July 24 - Run trails E/NE of Gunnison - (Massey #31,32,33,35 & 37)

Day 6 - July 25 - Loop S/SW out of Gunnison into the Gunnison NF on the Colorado BDR, and NW toward Vulcan, North to Blue Mesa Reservoir and back into Gunnison

Day 7 - July 26 - Richmond Hill, Reno Divide, Taylor Pass to Aspen - spend the night in Aspen or surrounding area (Massey #26 & 27)

Day 8 - July 27 - Depart for home

As we are going to be based in one location from the 21st to the 26th it will be easy for anyone that cannot do the last day to go ahead and depart on the 26th



## 2019 Q3 Trip Information (continued)



### The 2nd Arctic Expedition — August 1 to September 15

**Trip Leaders:** Mike Fissel (SteelPonyCowboy)

#### Trip Details:

Another one of the EPIC adventures you can participate in and have an amazing bucket list experience.

The initial plan will be to visit the following areas not in any particular order:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Canadian Glacial Nation Park  | Jasper  |
| Alcan Highway   | Banff   |
| Chicken   | Delta Junction  |
| North Pole  | Fort McPherson  |
| White Horse   | Eagle   |
| Watson Lake   | Fairbanks   |
| Tok   | Hyder-Steward   |
| Dawson Creek (start of Alcan Highway)   | Skagway (possible)  |
| Toad River  | Dawson City (Parker Schnabel and “The Viking” from Gold Rush) |
| Fort Nelson   | Denali  |
| Potential: Price Report BC to Vancouver Island via ferry (drive the island from North to South to Victoria) then ferry to either Vancouver or Seattle | Denali Highway  |
| Coldfoot  | Deadhorse/Prudhoe Bay   |
| The “Ice Road Truckers” road  | Arctic National Park  |
| Dempster Highway  | Homer   |
| Anchorage   | McCarthy/Kennecott Glacier & Mine                             |
| and much more.....  | Inuvek NWT Canada   |

To get a flavor here is our daily blog from our 1st trip in 2011:  
<http://arcticjeepexpedition.blogspot.com>



# 2019 Remaining Calendar of Events

## April 2019

April 7 Chocolate Falls (Grand Falls)  
Day Trip

April 12 -14 The Mojave Road

Southern Utah Two Groups:

April 28 to May 5 - A Week in Moab

April 28 to May 5 - Ancient Ruins  
Route to Moab

## May 2019

May 5 -15 The Red Rock Adventure  
Tour

## June 2019

June 7 - 12 Sam White Memorial  
Expedition North Rim Grand Canyon

[View Q2 Trip Details in  
Previous Q1 Newsletter](#)

## July 2019

July 20 - 27 Colorado Rocky  
Mountain High II

## August/September 2019

August 1 to September 15  
The 2nd Arctic Expedition

## October 2019

October 12 - 20 California  
Emerald Triangle

## November 2019

November 5 - 8 The Annual  
SEMA Show in Vegas

## December 2019

Maricopa County Sheriff's Toy  
Patrol



## 2019 Q1 Past Expedition



### **Anza Borrego Expedition with 2019 TDS Desert Safari (optional) February 24 to 28, Optional Days - March 1 to 3**

**Trip Leader:** Russ Chung  
**Attendees:** GeorgeA

#### **Trip Details:**

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest state park in California. Five hundred miles of dirt roads, 12 wilderness areas and many miles of hiking trails provide visitors with an unparalleled opportunity to experience the wonders of the California Desert. The park is named for Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza and the Spanish word borrego, or bighorn sheep. The park features washes, wildflowers, palm groves, cacti and sweeping vistas. Visitors may also have the chance to see roadrunners, golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer and bighorn sheep as well as iguanas, chuckwallas and the red diamond rattlesnake. Our base camp for this year's Anza Borrego Expedition was in the Agua Caliente County Park.



# 2019 Q1 Non Expedition Summary

## Quartzfest - January 20 to January 26, 2019

**Attendees:** Russ Chung

### Trip Details:

The annual Quartzfest ham radio convention was held just south of Quartzsite, AZ January 20-26. I headed to Quartzfest immediately after the Jeep Expeditions Annual Meeting and set up camp about 200 yards east of the registration tent. The weather was cool and sunny. It was windy on Monday and Tuesday and nice the rest of the week. After I got the trailer positioned and the roof top tent set up, I set up 2.4GHz mesh nodes on the trailer and on my Jeep. There was an internet gateway on the mesh network but the throughput was so slow I used my AT&T Wi-Fi hotspot to reach the internet.



## Weekend Trip Harquahala Mountain March 8 to 10

**Trip Leader:** Mike Rubio (Igocommando)

**Attendees:** RedRuby, Via, FNIVME2

### Trip Details:

The Harquahala trip was another great weekend run. RedRuby's Jeep was out of commission so he sat shotgun with the trip leader. The crew camped out Friday night. The weather was a little cold but nothing firewood couldn't cure. Saturday morning during breakfast Via showed up and shortly after FNIVME2 and his wife showed up. We left and the first stop was the Black Rock Mine that has been purchased by a California person who has renamed it Little Horn Creek. We spent about an hour exploring all the shafts and just enjoying the weather. We left and headed back to the trail head where we ended up seeing an ex Jeep Expeditions member Slydog with another group. So we headed up to the top of the mountains. At the top of the Harquahala we had lunch and walked around the old Smithsonian at the top. On the way down the mountain we stopped at an old stone house and above that was a mining runoff. Some rock hunting was done by Via and Margie. Then we headed back to camp and Via and FNIVME2 and his wife left. The remaining crew started the fire early, and boy, did it get cold. We went through 4 bags of wood in 4 hours. This was a great trip and there was so much more to see, but as always, there wasn't enough time.



## 2019 Q1 Non Expedition Summary

### Day Run Try 1 & 2 to Box Canyon & Reymert Mine? March 3, 2019

**Co-Trip Leaders:** Bill Solley and Philip Taylor (Nightcroft72)  
**Attendees:** andimac, Tony, FINIVME2 + Storm the poodle & Via + Cole the Wonder Dog

#### Trip Details:

We met at the Bashas' store in Gold Canyon and after a quick drivers' meeting and radio check of our new Midland GMRS radios, we hit the road to the trail at 9 AM. It was a 25 mile ride to the trailhead in Florence. At 2.5 miles in we encountered our first obstacle of the day: locked steel gates on both sides of the railroad tracks. We back tracked north to Cottonwood Canyon Road and found new dirt and an alternate trail to get to our destination of Box Canyon. At 7 miles in we were met with "Private Property" and "Box Canyon CLOSED" signs and another locked gate.



We checked the maps and Wells book and decided to switch our plans to the Reymert Mine Trail. We were off again down about a quarter tank of gas from when we started. It was a nice, easy ride on rocky, dirt surrounded by a lush, green desert saturated with saguaro cacti to reach the Reymert Mine Road. The trail quickly deteriorated and we were soon picking our way over large rocks, some testy shelves and narrow walls but still not 4 low territory. In fact, as tail gunner, I kept seeing a small, white SUV in my mirror, and wondering how he was following where our big, bad, lifted Jeeps were starting to crawl along. Then Nightcroft72 came on the radio with, "4 Low Time!"

Our Midland handhelds got a good workout spotting over some rough terrain and the lead Jeeps hit a dead end at the top requiring a tight turnaround. As we headed back down we encountered the Hyundai, abandoned and locked with apparent major undercarriage damage. It was parked in the middle of a narrow spot on the trail blocking our exit. Our first plan was to winch or push it out of the way, but we decided to spare it any more damage and "build" a track out around it. With some heavy rock excavation, we were able to squeeze by.

After a late lunch and some good conversation we headed home having failed to reach our initial destination of Box Canyon and missing the turnoff up to the Reymert Mine.

With Via's words of the day fresh in our heads - "It's a beautiful day, we are in our Jeeps and that sure beats anything else we could be doing" - it was easy to accept our new lesson learned to always have a backup plan!



## Q2 News of the Quarter

Cal4Wheel dues are due by June 30 and have been increased to \$50.00. We will still pay \$15.00 of your dues but you will need to pay \$35.00 this year. Please use one of our 3 methods of payment and be sure to include your name and user name with your payment.

1. PAY PAL (preferred method if you have a Pay Pal account) account name is: [PayPal@jeepexpeditions.org](mailto:PayPal@jeepexpeditions.org) PLEASE check the box stating "Sending \$ to friends and family" so we can avoid the fee. Be sure to put your club username in the comments and what the payment is for. This is important as we sometimes can't match up a pay pal account to a member and we absolutely need to know what you are buying/paying for!

2. CHECK - payable to Jeep Expeditions to: P.O. Box 12862, Scottsdale, AZ 85267  
Be sure to include your club username.

3. QUICK PAY with ZELLE - Simply Log In to your Bank's Online Website and find the quick pay link. Select the account you want to use for payment.

Then use - "Jeep Expeditions" for the name and [Zelle@jeepexpeditions.org](mailto:Zelle@jeepexpeditions.org) for the email account. Enter the payment amount, note what the payment is for with your forum username, click "send" and you are done. There is no cost to either party for these transactions.

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Tire Tracks is now linked in the Cal4Wheel monthly newsletter which has over 8,000 combined members. <https://cal4wheel.com/downloads/club-newsletters>

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**4 Wheel Drive & 4 Wheel Parts Discount Program** - We have a new program coming in April for our member discount program with 4WD & 4WP – the old member card and assigned number system will be replaced with active member's phone number and email address on file. Either can be used for your discount at any location or for telephone orders only at 4WD & 4WP. NO online orders will receive a discount at this time.

**GMRS Radios** – Have you purchased your new GMRS radio equipment yet using the Midland Jeep Expeditions discount code (see the code in the Member's Only Forum)? The policy replacing the CB requirement with GMRS goes into effect January 1, 2020.



## Q2 Member Article

### Vaguely Interesting by Dave Simons (SoliantGreen) Jeep; Crown Jewel or Albatross?

The Jeep brand is one of the most iconic in the automotive world, being spawned from a war-fighting necessity, to being adapted to use as farm equipment, and eventually developing into the off-road leader that is ubiquitous on trails around the world. Whether it's the easily recognizable shape, its out of the box capability, or the easily modified nature of the little quarter ton truck, it is ridiculously popular, spawning imitators as well as an entire industry dedicated to its improvement. Every time Jeep has been acquired though, it has usually been the "crown jewel" that the new owners sought after the most. But consider this: The Jeep brand itself may just be an albatross around the neck of each of these companies.

We all know the story of the jeep's development during the build up to World War II. Army planners saw the use of the VW Kübelwagen by the German army in rolling across Europe in the "blitzkrieg" style of warfare, toppling country after country before these outdated armies even knew what had hit them. America's military wanted a similar four person, four wheel drive reconnaissance car, and American Bantam from Butler, PA produced the first prototype in just 49 days! Willys-Overland and Ford Motor Company swooped in, built improved and cheaper versions, won the contracts to build production versions, and by war's end, had produced over 600,000 of the model! After the war, Willys-Overland banked their entire future on a civilian model for farmers and after trademarking the name, "jeep" became "Jeep." (To be clear, "jeep" is a quarter ton 4x4 truck built to a military specification, while "Jeep" is just one of the companies that has made them.)

In 1953, Kaiser Motors purchased Willys-Jeep and renamed the company Willys Motors and started to divest themselves of all passenger car production to concentrate on making jeeps and trucks. In 1963, the company was renamed Kaiser-Jeep which in turn was sold to American Motors Corporation in 1970. Renault later purchased a large interest in AMC but by 1987, Chrysler had purchased Renault's 47% interest in AMC and made a public offering for the rest of the stock resulting in full ownership as Renault exited the American market completely. In 1998, after shedding itself of all of the AMC and Eagle branded lines, Chrysler itself was acquired by Daimler-Benz and managed by a holding company called Daimler-Chrysler. In 2007, Daimler divested itself of Chrysler and eventually Fiat merged with Chrysler becoming Fiat Chrysler Automobiles.

All these companies that produced jeeps have something in common; they either got out of making jeeps or they went defunct. Ford, Renault, and Daimler-Benz all got out of the jeep production business and survived while Bantam, Willys-Overland, Willys Motors, Kaiser-Jeep, and American Motors all went under, while Chrysler itself barely limps along under the ownership of Fiat. When you further consider that Mitsubishi used to produce a license built version of the CJ-3B, it sure is ironic that car companies from all three major Axis countries from WWII have all produced jeeps (all three survive to this day) despite the vehicle's role in their country's wartime defeat. While it is interesting to note that Jeep seems to have been the only survivor of all of its former owners, perhaps labeling it "albatross" is too harsh considering that the bird in the epic poem "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" was actually the one who died, while Jeep soldiers on no matter the fate of its owners.

New member SoliantGreen Previous Jeep Club Service Bio:

Founder/President - Sons of Bantam Jeep Club & BBQ Society or SOB for short!

VP/Director - Orlando Jeep Club

Secretary - Ocala Jeep Club

Member - Mile High Jeep Club, Peace River Jeepers, Legendary Jeeps of Brevard County



## Expedition Tech Box



### Which Midland Micro-Mobile is BEST for YOU?

Now that is a question that will get you a different answer from just about everyone you talk to. We all know, at least those of us who have joined the “GMRS Revolution” that GMRS is so much better than CB. The 15 watt Micro-Mobiles have consistent quality of range and clear reception. Unlike CB where one radio can sound good then the next one sounds like crap, if you can hear it at all. The bottom line is that within its range of distance, GMRS is just as good as 70cm Ham without the license and much higher cost of Ham radio gear.

The club’s new policy states that effective Jan 1, 2020, ALL Jeeps must have a minimum 15 watt GMRS radio with a permanent/fixed outside antenna. The only company that makes 15 watt and greater mobile radios is Midland.



Midland has 3 models that fit our policy, the MXT115, MXT275 and the MXT400. The MXT115 is the smallest and has a standard microphone, it can fit just about anywhere, like the the panel below your steering wheel, the dash, or even the panel in front of your shifters. The MXT115 has a control box you can mount behind the glove box for instance and the microphone has all of the controls in it. The MXT400 is the big daddy of GMRS radios with 40 powerful watts. It is the biggest radio in size too. I’ve seen it mounted overhead on an aftermarket cage or on top using a CB mount that attaches to the loop on the windshield, but the best place, in my opinion, is on the panel in front of the shifters on a JK.

Pair the radio with a 6db gain antenna from Midland and you have a powerhouse radio for all of our trips. More and more Jeep clubs across the nation and many off-roaders have switched to GMRS because of range and clarity of sound which is why we did too. Give you one hint, Midland is coming out with a new antenna with a spring at the base to prevent antenna damage off road. They listen to their customers and this change is a direct result of our club’s suggestion to them.

Now I didn’t tell you the best radio for your Jeep, did I? My recommendation goes to the MXT115 due to the versatile mounting options and easy to use microphone. But if you want to spend another \$100 for the best, get the 40 watt monster; the MXT400.

Join the other half of the club that has made the switch and isn’t looking back to the days of CB!

Mike Fissel – SteelPonyCowboy



## Member Spotlight (Rigs of course!)

### Tin Shanty - David & Allison Hixson - 2004 TJ

A factory order, our red "Ruby" arrived in early October 2003 (to replace our 1997 TJ with the automatic transmission). Long before joining Jeep Expeditions, our Jeep was used primarily for hunting. That explains why this Jeep had only 16,000 original miles when we joined the club in 2017. We're up to 36,000 now.



- 2004 TJ Rubicon
- 4.0L - 6 cylinder engine
- Banks Power Pack System
- 5 speed manual transmission
- Dual Odyssey batteries with isolator and disconnects
- 4:56 gears
- 33" BFG KO2 tires
- Short arm suspension with Metal Cloak springs
- Heim cross over steering
- Bilstein shocks
- Rear long travel shock towers moved to outside frame rails
- Warn #9500 winch with synthetic rope
- Shannon Campbell built bumpers and rock sliders
- Removable roof rack and Howling Moon rooftop tent



Although the roof rack and tent worked well, a short TJ has its limitations, and there was no room for the dog. We're still making improvements, but the combined rig is much more functional.

- Trailer - Homemade 4 ft. x 5 ft.
- ARC 360 degree articulation dual plane hitch
- 2200# Timbren independent suspension
- Electric brakes
- Same size tires, wheels, and bolt patterns as the Jeep
- Odyssey group 31 battery
- 500 watt inverter
- James Baroud roof top tent
- Home made birch drawer system on Teflon slides



## Member Spotlight (Continued)

### 33 Jeeps, 37 Years – Mike Fissel SteelPonyCowboy



Honestly, I don't know anyone who has had more Jeeps than me. My first was a CJ5 then I graduated to a CJ7 thanks to 60 Minutes saying CJ5's were dangerous and Allstate would not insure mine at renewal. At one time I had 10 registered and insured Jeeps in my driveway. All together my list includes 1 CJ5, 2 CJ7's, 2 CJ8 Scramblers, 10 FSJ's (2 Cherokee Chiefs, 2 J20 Trucks, 1 J10 Truck and 5 Wagoneers), 5 XJ's, 2 MJ Trucks, 5 ZJ's, 1 WJ, 2 YJ's, 1 TJ and 2 JKU's. Now these are the Jeeps I can remember; there could have been one or two more.

I've loved all my Jeeps and if I could name a few favorites I'd have to say CJ7, CJ8, FSJ, TJ and JKU. Don't get me wrong; the rest were just fine, but those are my favorites. I just can't pick one, but I could narrow it down to three CJ7, FSJ and JKU.

My current two rigs are a 2007 JKU Sahara and my newest 2016 JKU Rubicon Hard Rock.

I've set up my Hard Rock (as with all the Jeeps I've owned since 2006) as an Overland Jeep. The 13 years of overlanding experience along with setting up 5 Jeeps specifically for long term vehicle dependent adventures has led me to what I feel is my greatest creation.



*Continued on Next Page*

## Mike Fissel's latest JKU Rubicon (continued from prior page)

The beginning steps attracted the attention of Rugged Ridge and along with their parent company, invited me to have my Rubicon on display at the SEMA show in 2018. Along with that came certain perks that transformed this rig to what it is today. There isn't much more I can do or add to it.

FSR automatic RTT  
Rugged Ridge from front to rear  
SuperLift suspension  
Atturo Tires  
Dometic Fridge  
TeraFlex roof rack  
CB, Ham & GRMRs radios, 3 different GPS & satellite communicators  
A back seat elimination floor kit from CU OffRoad.



Sure there is more like OBA in the form of dual 450c compressors from Viair & Up Down Air  
13 gallon Titan fuel tank and much more....

I'll be on the road with 6 or 7 Expeditions this year and will have my Rubi on display at about a dozen events from coast to coast. Stop on by and feel free to ask questions.



## Jeep Expeditions Member Level Decal

Ever wonder what the different “Expedition” designations are by your name on the forum? Did you know that just by logging into the forum and joining in on a discussion, signing up for trips, contributing your ideas on a subject or asking a technical question about your Jeep could earn you a special decal for your Jeep?

Here is how it works.

We have 8 levels of forum activity/posts that will earn you a decal:

Newbie – less than 5 posts – No decal

Expedition Beginner – No decal

Expedition Explorer – 11-25 posts

Expedition Savvy – 26-75

Expedition Captain – 76-200

Expedition Star – 201-400

Expedition Commander – 401-600

Expedition Expert – 601-1000

Expedition Pro – 1001-1500

Expedition Master – 1501+

Just one more reason to be using the forum on a regular basis to keep current with the latest trip postings, topic discussions and getting the most out of your Jeep Expeditions membership.



# Member Appreciation

## Welcome New Members!!!

Kristin N. (Brutus)

Emilio H.(Hernandez559)

Jeff C. (AZCOYOTE)

Mark C. (Boltman)

Duane J. (Bugs)

## Q2 2019 Member Anniversaries

### 3 YEARS

#### April:

David H. (TinShanty)

#### May:

James D. (JDickson)

#### June:

Thuy D. (Twee)

Seth T. (troutseth)

### 10 YEARS

#### June:

Robert S. (roberts)

## Q2 Member Birthdays

Apr 1 - Robert (Robert Maclay "Mac")

Apr 2 - James W.(Angry Jeep)

Apr 6 - Mark Y.(Mark)

Apr 14 - David H. (TinShanty)

Apr 16 - Paul S.(MauiCountyJr)

Apr 18 - Alan M. (Alan)

Apr 20 - German R.(G Rios)

Apr 23 - Roger S.(rslagle)

Apr 24 - Wayne S.(wsm1788)

Apr 30 - Richard R. (JeepZebra)

May 3 - Steven (Steven Bruckerhoff)

May 5 - June S.(Jeepdog)

May 6 - Tim S.(3rdjeep)

May 9 - Amy M. (Snow White)

May 12 - Stephanie R. (Tasiastar)

May 12 - Scott M. (WhiskyActual57)

May 12 - Christopher B. (FNIVME2)

May 14 - Russ (Russ Chung)

May 14 - Ron F. (eugenethejeeper)

May 24 - Emilio H. (Hernandez559)

May 28 - Robert S. (roberts)

May 29 - Jack L. (jay)

Jun 2 - Tish H. (Via)

Jun 4 - Seth T.(troutseth)

Jun 4 - Todd T. (Toad)

Jun 5 - Jerome S.(Starkness)

Jun 9 - Jason L. (Rubicajon)

Jun 11 - Greg L.(K6GHL)

Jun 11 - Randall D. (Vader)

Jun 24 - John H. (Halffastiohn)

# RIDE ON

DESIGNATED ROADS•TRAILS•AREAS



# ***Credits***

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**Provides all club members with a discount code on any product purchase**  
**Current discount amounts and codes can be found in the “Members Only” Forum**



**Offer discounts on all in store or phone orders only using your 4 Wheel Drive Hardware / 4 Wheel Parts club member number. This program will be updated in April 2019 for all active members allowing you to use your phone number or email address that is on file in the Jeep Expeditions master member list.**

