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# MOUNTAIN-EARS

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## LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

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### August Club Trip

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August's Club Trip will be Old Flowers Road. Trip Date Sunday August 23. Meet at the North King Soopers and leave at 9:00 AM

We will also have a second trip the following Sunday August 30 to Mike and Bianca's Property. Minimum requirements

1. 33" tire or Larger
2. One Locker Minimum
3. Good Tires (No Bald Tires)
4. Club Member Vehicles only



### July Trip Report

On Sunday July 19th Mountaineers and guests began to gather at the usual meeting location in Fort Collins, for the days adventure. This day would bring the fun of Moody Hill and the Rock Quarry. The caravan left for the trail promptly at 9:00am with the expectation of additional members

## **Guests at Last Meeting**

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Bradley & Rhea  
Mikkelson

Byron Nash

AJ & Jennifer Remero

## **New Members**

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Bradley & Rhea  
Mikkelson #96

Justin Rannells #97

Byron Nash #98

being in Masonville to join in the caravan, but to our surprise there was no one there.

It was realized that the Masonville group decided to head to the trail head prior to the main group arriving in Masonville, as we came across one of our Members Just Plain Dave sitting in the middle of CR 44h with a tire missing from the rear of his jeep. It seems that the lug nuts that hold the wheel spacer on decided that they no longer wanted to be a part of the jeep. It was a good thing that it happened here, as the last trail Dave had run was Black Bear Pass and Imogene Pass the previous week.

While every one was airing down and locking in a tally was taken, and even with Dave out of commission for the day and Craig volunteering to run him home to get his truck and trailer there were still 16 rigs left in the line up (10 members and 6 guests) with a total of 31

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### Wellington Toy Storage

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2716 S. College Ave.

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### Moab 4x4 Outpost

1831 S. HWY 191

Moab UT

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people.

The trip up to the Quarry was uneventful as all the obstacles are still covered with dirt from last years flood

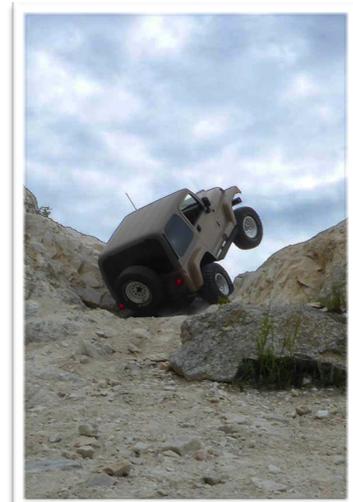
repairs, however there are signs of the rocks beginning to show through



the dirt. Once

at the Quarry the fun began with everyone taking their turn at the Quarry. One of the Highlights of the Quarry was Scott Riley taking his 4 door long bed Chevy through the Quarry with no real problems, even with the limousine size

wheelbase. The real nail bitter of the afternoon was when Ben Crue decided to try his luck at the big ledge on top of the Quarry in his TJ. He



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### **Maresh Cabling, LLC**

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Wellington CO  
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[donmcabbling@gmail.com](mailto:donmcabbling@gmail.com)

some how managed to balance his rig on two tires, one of which was the spare mounted on the rear of the vehicle. Luckily he seemed to get it into reverse in time to save it from going over onto its side.

At the end of the day it was a good trip with no major issues for anyone and we managed to



get all the trash picked up off the trail and campsites.

## 4 Wheeling Ouray 2015

### **“The Switzerland of America”**

Towards the end of a seven hour drive over four passes from northern Colorado, we could see the spectacular mountains looming over the destination for this year’s Mountaineers wheeling week, Ouray. For some guests and associate club

## Club Sponsors

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members, the drive took a little longer to get to Ouray from California, Missouri and Louisiana. John S. lost the transmission on his Ford F-450 tow rig coming over the last pass but was able to limp it on into camp.

Our first day of wheeling was led by Joe H. who took us through several historic mining areas in the Alpine Loop area which would limber us up for things to come later in the week. It soon became evident that every road that we would travel during the week was built to service the mining industry. We often marveled at how the hardy folks in the late 1800s and early 1900s could work year around at such a high altitude. We saw evidence of thousands of mines of all different sizes. Day two was led by Craig over the famous Black Bear and Imogene Pass trails. As luck would have it, Black Bear was opened just two days before we got to Ouray. We had to go through a few bulldozed snow fields where the top of the snow was taller than our vehicles. The CB was pretty silent until we got to the stair steps and we

had a full view of Telluride in the valley far below. The plan was to have lunch at the city park in Telluride but there was a music festival going on and we had to go straight to Imogene and eat on the run. The first couple of miles it's hard to find a place to pass as this trail is very narrow. Of course that is where our guest Justin, (and now our newest club member) sliced open one of 37" tires and we had to hold up traffic for a while so the tire could be changed. We had to go through several more snow cuts before reaching the 2nd highest pass in Colorado at 13,114 feet.

Every day we would have a new leader for the trip and sometimes we would split into a couple of groups depending where we wanted to go. We even made a second excursion over Black Bear.

Poughkeepsie Gulch was a fun trip. This trail does have one challenge area which is known for the rollovers that have occurred there. Everyone in our group made the challenge safely, some with the help of their winch. Note: A couple of days later, Dan V., while out with a group of Toyotas did a slow roll onto his side in his 4 Runner at the challenge. It just bruised his pride and put a little more rock rash on the 4 Runner. On up the trail we came to a drift covering the trail. Corvette Dave and Joe H. took turns bashing the drift. After finishing off the drift, one of the ladies in the group found the trail around the drift. It was too late for Joe as his clutch was by now done in by the drift. We sent Jim B. ahead of Joe to clear the road as Joe couldn't shift. As soon as they got back to camp, Joes Jeep went onto the trailer.

Back at the campground Troy noticed that his gas tank was leaking.

Not being able to fix it, another Jeep was put onto the trailer and Troy was relegated to the back seat of his mom and dad's Jeep for the rest of the week. Most of the trails that we were on included shelf roads, loads of water falls and wild flowers galore. We got to do almost every trail in Chuck Wells guide book which included Mineral Creek, Corkscrew Gulch, California Gulch, Engineer Pass and many others to numerous to mention. No visit to this area would be complete unless you visit the town site of Animas Forks which we did twice. The KOA campground was perfect for our group as they served breakfast every morning and even dinner several nights a week. The facility was kept clean and every campsite had several trees. A couple of people also took advantage of the Hot Springs Pool in downtown Ouray. For the most part, the Mountaineer family had a great time in Ouray and are coming home with new memories and some good stories to tell. There is one more story that you probably haven't heard yet as it happened to Corvette Dave on the way home. Dave hooked up his FJ-40 to the motor home, ready to flat tow it all the way home to Greeley. Dave didn't realize that the emergency brake was still was engaged on the Toyota. He was down the road a ways and thought he might have a problem and pulled the motorhome off the road. When he got to the FJ, he found both rear tires ablaze. It took three fire extinguishers to put out the fire. Dave put the spare tire on and had to run into town and buy another tire. Dave had a slow trip home and upon further inspection found that there was a lot more damage than he originally thought. It's a good thing he has a spare FJ-40.

El Guapo

## Long Distance Call For Help!

On a quiet Saturday evening Craig got a call from a man in Vancouver Washington named Vince. Vince said his brother, Doug, was going to Oregon to visit their mother who was in the hospital. Doug drove his two wheel drive Ford F-150 (loaded with all his worldly possessions) up the Poudre Canyon to find a camping spot. Vince said his brother got onto a 4wd trail and went a long ways in before the trail dead ended at a spot where he couldn't turn around or back up and said that the only way to get his truck out was by helicopter. Doug walked out eventually getting to a good road where he left a white napkin on a tree branch to mark the spot. He was picked up by a family who drove him to Fort Collins and helped him make a plan to get to Oregon. When Doug got to Oregon he called Vince to explain the problem with leaving his truck on the trail.

Vince got on the internet and found the Mountaineers web site and gave Craig a call. Vince had no clue as to where Doug's truck was. Doug finally called Craig and through a lot of questioning believed that he had gone from Rustic up the Pingree Hill Road to the Manhattan Road and turned into the Swamp Creek area on Forest Road 171J. Less than a year ago the Mountaineers recovered a 4wd vehicle from the same exact spot. Sunday morning Craig called Darren, Mike and Bianca to enlist their help in getting the Ford out. A friend visiting Craig, Daniel, came along as the driver. When they got to the end of 171J, there was the stuck F-150. Doug had left the keys in the

ignition. While figuring out how to get the vehicle turned around, a couple of ATVs came along to check and see what we were doing. They had noticed the vehicle with keys in it and were keeping an eye on it so that no one would steal the stuff out of it. We eventually got the Ford turned around and strapped it to Darren's Blazer. Darren pulled it up the trail over several rock piles to a spot where it could move under its own power.

Daniel drove it down to Mike and Bianca's house. We called Doug and told him that his truck had no damage and that it was now in Fort Collins. Doug was elated at the news and said that he would get on a bus and be back in Fort Collins in a couple of days. The reunion between a man and his truck would bring a tear to your eye. Doug also said that Vince would soon be making a \$500.00 donation to the Mountaineers for the club's efforts in helping their family.

August 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 K&D Kinnison A&M Eddy
2 Judy Paul  B&M Kemp	3	4	5	6 M&L Castell	7	8 B&J Marquardt
9 Kristi Graves	10 BOARD MEETING <i>Justin Treece</i>	11	12	13 Jason Bell  D&C Stengaard	14	15
16	17	18 J&S Mueller	19 CLUB MEETING Greg Meyers	20	21 Cody Kinnison	22 Liam Riley
23 CLUB TRIP 30 Milly Smelker	24 31 Kim Schleppy Mindy Warner	25 Brian Graves  B&K Schleppy	26	27 Katie Schrader	28 John Schrader	29 Cody Warner

September 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Colton Riley	8 BOARD MEETING <i>Michelle Opdyke</i>	9	10	11 Brett Newton	12 Cameron Klein  D&K LeDeaux
13 Jennifer Meyers	14 Cory Kinnison	15	16 CLUB MEETING Alex Stone Eric Treece  C&M Smelker	17	18	19
20 CLUB TRIP Skylar Payton	21	22 Heidi Crue	23 Austin Eddy	24 Nathaniel DeWitt Troy White	25 Harper LeDeaux  R&K Kapperman	26
27	28 D&S Oden	29 Bev Klein	30			

Board Meeting: Sep. 8 7:30pm Michelle Opdyke  
 Oct. 12 7:30pm Jim Bridge  
 Membership Meeting: Aug. 19 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
 Sep. 16 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
 Club Trip: Aug. 23 9:00am **King Soopers Parking Lot N. College & Willox**

The following businesses give Mountaineer Members special discounts on parts or specific services. In other words, they save us money... and we are grateful.

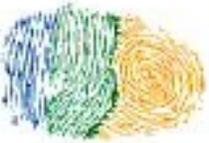
<p><b>4X4 Used Parts / 4X4 Off Road</b>            938 West Willox Lane, Ft. Collins            970-224-1133 <a href="http://www.4x4usedparts.com">www.4x4usedparts.com</a></p>	<p><b>NAPA Auto Parts Ft. Collins</b>            316 S. Link Ln.            Ft. Collins, Colorado</p>	<p><b>CarQuest Auto Parts</b>            2716 South College Avenue            Ft. Collins, Colorado 970-226-5050</p>
<p><b>Bullhide Liner 4X4 &amp; Auto Accessories</b>            5817 South College Ave.            Ft. Collins, Colorado 970-224-2288</p>	<p><b>Always A Deal Inc.</b>            Computer Services            Johnstown, Colorado 970-310-7547  <a href="http://www.AlwaysaDeal.info">www.AlwaysaDeal.info</a></p>	<p><b>Moab 4x4 Outpost</b>            1831 S Hwy 191            Moab, Utah 435-259-0911</p>
<p><b>Horsepower Auto Brokers, LLC</b>            417 N US HWY 287, Ft. Collins            970-482-2579 <a href="http://www.horsepowerauto.com">www.horsepowerauto.com</a></p>	<p><b>Maresh Cabling, LLC</b>            3400 Saratoga St. Unit C            Wellington CO 80549            970-556-7276 <a href="mailto:dommcabling@gmail.com">dommcabling@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>RockStomper</b>            P.O. Box 724            Firestone, Colorado 303-833-1431</p>
<p><b>Fry's Auto Care</b>            210 Commerce Dr.            Ft. Collins 970-310-7195</p>	<p><b>Wellington Toy Storage</b>            4000 Washington Ave. Wellington,            Colorado 970-498-2111  <a href="http://www.wellingtontoystorage.com">www.wellingtontoystorage.com</a></p>	<p><b>Fort Collins 4x4 Center</b>            1101 N. College Ave.            Fort Collins, CO            970-482-5500</p>



**Larimer County 4WD Club, Inc.**  
**The Mountaineers**  
**P O Box 1225**  
**Fort Collins, CO 80522-1225**

**treadlightly!**<sup>®</sup>

LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



## Kelly Flats Cleanup

About fourteen Mountaineer and guest vehicles gathered for a trip up to Kelly Flats to do our annual trail cleanup. Jim B. and Joe H. left Fort Collins a little early as they were towing their rigs to the trailhead. When the rest of our group got to the trailhead, we were surprised to see a couple of Colorado DOW guys checking all the ATVs for their OHV Stickers. Of course they noticed that Jim's black Jeep didn't have a license plate and told Jim that he could not take his Jeep on the trail without a valid license plate or an OHV sticker. Well, Joe drove Jim to a place that had cell coverage and he was able to buy a sticker on line and get a receipt on his phone. Now that they were legal, they came back to the trail, unloaded and caught up to our group a little later.

A lot of time was spent picking up trash at the base Heart Attack Hill. There was so much brass laying on the ground that it took about 6 or 7 people twenty minutes just to pick up all the shells. We were looking at the water bars on our way and most all of them were working well and didn't require any cleaning. Only 3 vehicles took Heart Attack Hill while the rest went on the bypass. We got to the chutes just in time for lunch as planned. There were several that tried their luck at chutes challenge. Joe H. made it look like a walk in the park. Others looked spectacular by lifting wheels high in the air. Jim B. and Dan V. both sustained some new rock rash on their vehicles with Jim even breaking his wing vent window glass.

We left the Kelly Flats trail a lot cleaner than we found it and had a lot of fun to boot!

El Guapo

