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# MOUNTAIN-EARS

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## LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

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### **December Club Trip**

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The Club Trip will be Seven Mile, we will stop for lunch at the base of Stump Hill and have a fire to roast some Hot Dogs. (North King Soopers at 8:30 am and leave at 9:00 am)

**Attention: Club Trip is on Dec. 18 because of Christmas.**

**Attention: Club Meeting this Month is starting early at 6:30 pm**



### **November Trip Report**

#### *Bald Mountain*

Eight Vehicles, two Toyotas, four Jeeps, a Ford, and a Scout headed toward Red Feather to conquer the 6-8 inches of snow, that had fallen during the week.

Pulling into the trailhead, we found the snow had settled to 4-5 inches. While airing down a tow truck pulled in and we all chuckled at the possibility of him attempting the trail.

### Guests at Last Meeting

Roy Robinson

Brian Schmierer

Connor Gilmore

JD Ritchey & Shannon  
Bair

Mike Klaege

### New Members

Roy & Rosie Robinson  
#98

### 2017 Summer Trip

Our 2017 Summer Trip will be to Buena Vista. We will be exploring the area July 22 - 28. So start making your plans to join us for this week of High Country Fun.

Heading on up the trail, we found the snow to be perfect but upon getting into the rocks there was some slipping and sliding. A couple vehicles found a spot that gave them trouble and stopped along the way to air down some more to get better traction through the rocks.

All were keeping a consistent pace forward until one of the wranglers found a rocky uphill that kept him slipping downhill over a large rock into the trees. After several attempts, the jeep ended tight up against the tree. He aired down some more and we brought out the winch, tree strap, snatch block and D-ring. Being new to four wheeling with the club, several got a lesson in winching 101 as it took three separate hookups to get him on the trail and past this section.



The remainder of the trail was enjoyed with half of the vehicles taking the bypasses and the rest taking on the challenges as they appeared.

At the top as we broke for lunch, the talk was of the Bald Mountain Radio Tower. Killpecker road was having power lines brought in to service the tower. Trees had been cut back to allow for the power poles to be placed when

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close to Red Feather the vehicles broke into groups to air up and head on home. No vehicle damage and a good time had by all. A great day of wheeling.

Snoopy



## November Trip Report

### *Kelly Flats*

It was a chilly morning as Mountaineers and guests gathered at King Soopers for the monthly club run. The first group headed off for a fun day on Bald Mountain while the other group hung back before heading off to Kelly Flats.

At the trailhead, eight club members and five guests prepared for the challenges ahead in a well-mixed group of rigs; 4 Jeeps, 4 Chevy's, and 5 Toyotas. Some unloaded from trailers, others aired down tires, and everyone locked in the hubs. Well, except for one person but, they soon got with the program as they were denied on the first tough spot near the start of the trail. The temperatures were warming but the wind was gusting; luckily it wasn't a cold wind so everyone

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was eager to get started.

The club secretary, Scott Riley, led the way from the trailhead to the first big obstacle on Kelly Flats, Heart Attack Hill. Four vehicles opted for the bypass as everyone else decided to give their hearts and rigs a good test on the long, steep obstacle. The wind continued to blow quite hard as all nine made it to the summit in good health and rigs intact. Club member Isaac Taylor's Jeep was making odd noises but after a quick look over no problems were found and the noises were not heard again.

Those choosing to take the Heart Attack Hill bypass also made the ascent without issue. It should be mentioned the bypass is not a cake walk either. The route is filled with big, loose rocks, and the climb is nearly as steep as Heart Attack Hill. There is even a section referred to as Aneurysm Hill.

Once everyone met up again, the group continued on to the next named obstacle on Kelly Flats, The Chutes. It is essentially a shortcut between two sides of a curve in the road, albeit a very challenging shortcut. The route is quite narrow with large rocks on both sides. Even the approach is filled with large boulders to negotiate.

Guest Nate Chilson in his red Chevy K5 Blazer



was first into the Chutes. After folding in his side mirror and some custom body shaping, he was able to successfully climb out of the little canyon. Next up was club member John Schrader in his green FJ40. After making an unsuccessful first attempt with only 1 front hub locked, John got his front axle ready for business and quickly conquered the Chutes.

Club member Mike Castell is obviously a pro at the Chutes and made it through in short order. Club vice president elect, Greg Myers, was the next to take on the obstacle. Having attempted the obstacle during the spring cleanup, Greg was prepared to attack the challenge with some momentum and it paid off with a successful climb through the Chutes.

The last participant to delight the crowd gathered around the obstacle was guest Connor Gillmore in his bright orange 4Runner. It was quickly apparent by Connor's approach to the big climb that he wasn't going to back down. With a heavy throttle pedal, dirt was flying and suspension parts pounded over the rocks as he was able to finish the challenge successfully much to the enjoyment of all.

After the excitement of the Chutes, the group continued down the Kelly Flats trail taking care to be respectful of the residences along this stretch of the trail. There was a little bit of

snow pack on the trail but it was mostly wet dirt. The trail winds its way through the trees and past a few burn areas. The work from the Mountaineers spring cleanup was apparent with all the downed trees cleared off to the side of the trail.

It was a little before 1PM when the entire group pulled into the parking area at the end of the trail. Everyone made it out successfully with no problems. Since it was still relatively early so a few of the group decided to get back down the trail in the opposite direction they had just come.

2 club members and 3 guests headed back through Kelly Flats in what would normally be considered the backwards direction. There were a few spots before the Chutes that offered a greater challenge going up than they did coming down the first time through. At the Chutes Nate decided he hadn't had enough of the obstacle the first time. So he drove DOWN the Chutes this time doing a little creative body styling on the passenger side of his Chevy K5.

While waiting for Nate, Greg realized he had a broken bolt on his steering box. It was fortunate he discovered it while we were stopped. Luckily Scott had a bolt and nut to do the job and Greg was quickly ready to keep moving down the trail.

No one was eager to try driving down Heart Attack Hill so the group headed down the bypass and Aneurysm Hill. The run concluded successfully with the group of five pulling into the trailhead parking lot a little before 4PM. Clouds were starting to obscure the sun and the day was cooling. Everyone repeated the morning's routine in reverse; loading trucks on trailers, airing up tires, and unlocking the hubs.

Scott R.



## Adopt a Family

The family we have chosen to help is a recently single mom with 4 children and another baby on the way. We will collect gifts and food/household items at our Dec21 meeting then deliver to the family. The following is a list of the children and items and sizes.

10 yr old boy - **Adrean**

Sz 14/16 boys clothes, sz 3 1/2 shoe

He really needs a new winter coat, likes star wars and Legos

8 yr old girl ( will be 9 this month) - **Alexis**

sz 10/12 clothes shoes sz 1

Likes Barbies, music and arts & crafts

3 yr old girl- ( will be 4 this month) **Alanna**

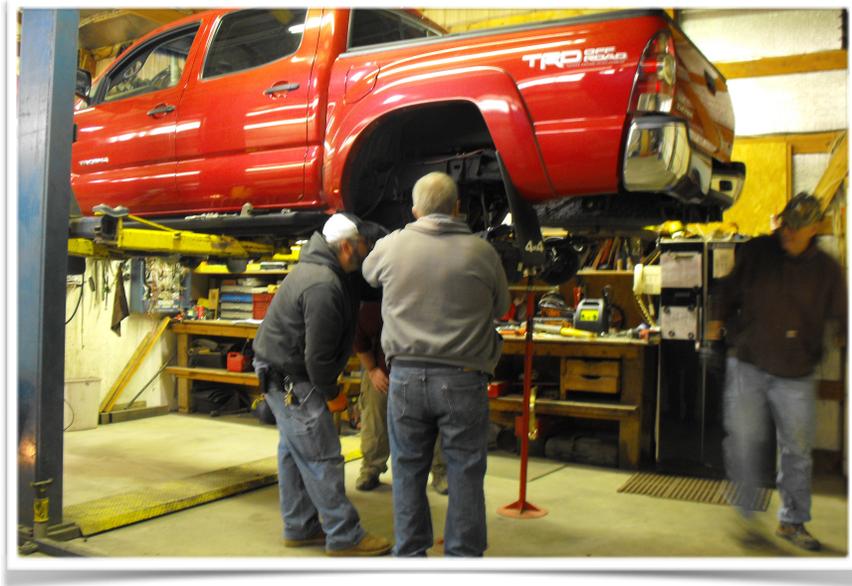
sz 4t clothes and sz 8 shoes

Loves Barbies and Shopkins

9 mo old girl - **Aliyah**

Toys that make noise and light up.

## Tow Hook Party



The Tow Hook Party and Lift Install was a great success. The knowledge and experience provided by the Mountaineers who attended got the Lift install on Colleen's Tacoma and the U-joint repair on Evan's Toyota and Doug's Grand Cherokee to be completed.

Changing out the front coils on the Tacoma was quite a feat with Dan and Brett handling the workload and a few helping hands assisting. The other Mountaineers kept things going installing the rear add-a-leafs and the body mounts. The 3" ToyTech lift and 1" body mounts did as intended with a 4" overall lift.

Evan and Doug found the advice and assistance in working on their U-joints aided on their project. The right tools, a warm workspace and the experience of having mountaineers who had replaced U-joints before made things easier.



A few armchair supervisors were also there providing camaraderie and support. The sharing of other views and information were communicated about during the day. We missed the many that were unable to attend.

Thank you to all who came, helped, and shared their wisdom.



Snoopy



## Mountaineers Christmas Party/Meeting

We will be holding the party on our regular Meeting day, Wednesday December 21st at the Knights of Columbus Hall. We will be changing the times slightly to allow for more time to talk and have some fun. The starting time for the Party will be 6:30pm and end around 9:00, depending on how much fun we are having. During that time we will take a short 30-45 minute break at 7:30 to hold a short meeting to go over Club business. We will have a main course provided by the club, but are asking that others bring a side dish to share.

# Jeep For Sale

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Dual Battery Box Setup

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Tube Doors  
Hella Driving Lights  
All Weather Floor Mats

K&N Cold Air Intake  
Catalytic Converter Back 3" Exhaust System

Blue OX Towing Kit



December 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Sally Oden	5 Kelly Ficarra	6 Ann Lietz	7 Christine Romero	8	9	10 Jason Marooney
11 Scott Ficarra	12 BOARD MEETING Mike Braskich Cristal Opdyke Shelby Peterson	13	14 Matthew DeWitt	15 Steve Claus Shane Peterson	16 Jaden Dyrenforth	17 Teresa Shively
18 CLUB TRIP Bill Dyrenforth Adrian LeDeaux	19	20	21 CLUB MEETING	22 John Jansen Dave Martin	23 Bob Paul	24
25	26	27 Kyle Eddy	28 Alice Mueller	29 Carl Malone	30 Janine Bernard Troy Mynes	31

January 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Bradley Mikkelson	3	4 Brittany Eddy	5 Haley Hergenreder	6 Wyvonne Stengaard	7
8	9 BOARD MEETING	10	11	12	13 Jessica Stengaard	14 AJ Romero
15	16	17 Michelle Jansen	18 CLUB MEETING	19	20 Misty Eddy	21
22 CLUB TRIP	23 Spencer Payton	24 Taylor Crue Brody Deflinger	25 Samantha Richards Kevin Hansen	26 Justin Rannells	27 Karen Riley	28
29	30	31				

Board Meeting: Jan. 9 7:30pm David LeDeaux  
 Feb. 6 7:30pm Scott Riley  
 Membership Meeting: Dec. 21 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
 Jan. 18 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
 Club Trip: Dec. 18 9:00am **North King Soopers N. College & Willox**

