
MOUNTAIN-EARS

LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

February Club Trip

This Month's Club Trip is our annual snow sledding trip to Happy Jack. Please meet at our new trip meeting place. North King Soopers College & Willox. We will leave at 9:00am Sunday Feb. 23rd.

Don't forget to bring \$5 for the Recreation Fee.



January Club Trip

It was a "COLD and windy Sunday morning that the Mountaineers met at the usual spot of North Albertson's. In total there was 11 Mountaineers and 2 guest rigs. One of which was a past member known by the name of Ross Early who had decided to attempt the trip in a stock Dodge 2500 pick up and then there were the Justin's in a Jeep, yes there were two-named Justin in one Jeep. Everyone Left Albertson's at 9:00am sharp to make the trek to the Poudre Canyon and head west into the mountains. Upon making the left onto Hwy 14 we picked up another Mountaineers (Vince Naccarati). So the now 12 members and two guests made their way up the Poudre enjoying the sunny weather.

Once we made it to our final destination of Crown Point Road we collected yet another Member, Darren Finger and the trusty Tater. We stopped for a little bit to lock in hubs and air down for

Club Dues 2014

The \$45.00 club assessment for dues is payable between January and March membership meetings. This amount not only keeps you current with the Mountaineers, but \$30.00 of it goes to the Colorado Association and Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition to keep you in good standing with them also. If the dues are not paid by the March meeting, you will be dropped from all three rosters.

New Trip Meeting Location

We are moving our Trip Meeting Location because Albertsons is closing. So we will move across the street to the North King Soopers parking lot at 1842 N. College Ave.

Guests at Last Meeting

CJ Stone

Jason Marooney

Jake Thompson

New Club Sponsor

The old John's 4x4 in Fort Collins as well as the John's 4x4 in Boulder have a new owner and the Fort Collins store is returning to Fort Collins 4x4 Center. The new owner (Ross Houk) has gotten rid of the old management and is a hands on type owner that wants to change the past reputation of the place. Our president stopped in the other day to talk to him and he has signed up to be an Associate Member as well as offering all of our Club Members a discount at both locations, so stop in and say hello to show support.

the day's adventures. Our normal personal guide did not want to break trail as he only has small tires so Bret Newton took the lead at that point in search of the "Deep Stuff", and it was not to long before we started hitting the drifts.



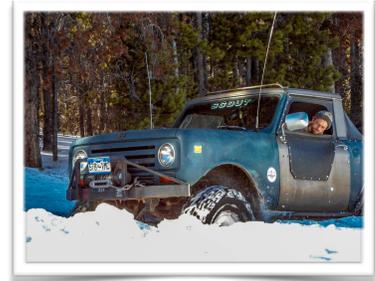
The road had the occasional foot deep drift up until we almost got to Mineral Springs trail and from that point on it was nothing but deep snow, and, Ross and his Dodge P/U had to be strapped through a drift for about ¼ of a mile to the next clearing and half way dry dirt. Since we were at our first real challenge of the day he had decided to turn around and make his way back to town. Craig decided to escort him out to make sure he did not get stuck along the way. With the first real obstacle for the day right around the corner Shane being the fearless one decided that he would pass everyone through the really deep stuff to get to the front of the pack.



The group must of spent nearly an hour and a half at this spot to get everyone through the drift, and only suffered one casualty of equipment. Shane Payton snapped his winching rope and it had to be tied in a knot to finish winching himself through. Next up to attempt the drift was the once leader of the pack Brett

Newton and the trusty Scout. He gave it everything it had but in the end had to be strapped out by Shane. While Shane stayed back to help some others through the drift Brett decided to head on up further to break trail.

Once we had everyone through that obstacle and headed for the days lunch spot of the Black Hollow Cut-off we heard a call on the radio from Brett. He was in trouble as he had slid off the



New Club Sponsor

Don Maresh has left CDR Communications, LLC and started his own cabling company called Maresh Cabling, LLC. He is located at 3400 Saratoga St. Unit C Wellington CO 80549 Phone 970-556-7276 Email donmcabbling@gmail.com

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trail and into the weeds. He said that he was close to flopping over and needed assistance real fast. Shane and Darren being not far from him made their way through the snow to help out. They managed to get the “Old Scout” and Brett back

onto the trail with some winching and tugging, but not without the Scout receiving some new bodywork.

Everyone finally made it to Black Hollow and enjoyed their lunch while trying to hide from the wind. It was decided that this is where we would be turning around for the day, not only because the Broncos were going to be on the TV but there were also some REALLY DEEP drifts past this point.



Without even leaving this spot we could see 6-8 foot drifts 50 yards up Crown Point and there was also a 4-5 foot drift 100 feet into Black Hollow. After everyone ate their lunch and got tired of smelling Don’s Brats and Onions that he had cooking in his Muff



Pot we all turned around and headed for home. We thought the adventure was over for the day, but some of us were wrong. Along the way back down the hill Jim Bridge got stuck and had to be strapped out of the Drift. He thought it would be easy going down hill, he was

wrong and suffered a bruised ego from having to be pulled out on the way down.

At the end of the day everyone had fun, and some suffered some damage but that’s just a day of wheeling with the Mountaineer Family!



Larimer County Front Range Flood 2013



With the down pour of rain that started in September, and the flash flooding that followed, the Larimer County Four Wheel Drive Club- The Mountaineers waited for the call that assistance was needed. We knew that we would eventually get the call to help our community, and the first call came in on Thursday September 12th around 3:30 pm from Bullhide 4x4 and the Loveland Fire Department looking for Off-road vehicles to possibly get rescue to the community of Drake, CO. This rescue mission was terminated as the only bridge to get from Storm Mountain down to the Drake Community was washed away shortly after the call, and that was the last lifeline other than Air Rescue.

After the first day all ground efforts went quiet as all the roads and trails were washed away from the rain we had just gotten. Members from the Mountaineers worked all leads they knew of trying to get help to those in need but without success. Not giving up on the hope to help we finally got a call from residents of Storm Mountain on Monday September 23rd to see if we could transport them to their property that they were evacuated from by helicopter.

We jumped at the chance to help out in our community by transporting residents back to their homes. We rounded up a few Mountaineers that were available during the week and set the meeting place to pick up the residents. We were also contacted the evening before the trip about hauling supplies up to the local handyman in the Storm Mountain/Cedar Park Community. We were able to get him 36 gallons of RV antifreeze for winterizing others homes for them, 20 Gallons of Diesel Fuel for his truck to get around, and delivered 5 gallons of gas to an unsuspecting resident that was in their front yard when we drove by. The residents that we took up there we extremely happy to get some of their belongings and their cat, as they would not have any access other than FR 153 for a few months. FR 153 was washed out and impassable until many of the resilient residents of Storm Mountain got together and undertook the strenuous task of repairing the washouts and clearing debris to make it passable by ATV and some 4-wheel Drive vehicles.

Several Mountaineers have made trips to the Drake, Glen Haven and Cedar Park areas to help people in need. The first Mountaineer to make the trip on the Storm Mountain Road from Masonville after the Larimer County Sheriff got the road open was Dan Venrick, who took his uncle to see what was left of his property and to retrieve important documents. Dan was able to give the second group to go up valuable information about the road conditions and where the trouble spots were. That group was Jim Dixon, Craig Stumbough and our newest club member Nate Little. We took recently acquired diesel fuel and RV antifreeze (donated free by Ace Hardware in Loveland) to the Cedar Park handyman (Ed) so that he could winterize 50 houses. We also had 2 men along that needed to winterize their house and bring out clothing, a computer and a cat who didn't like the ride to much. The trail for the most part was in good shape thanks to some of the Cedar Park people who did a lot of work to make the trail passable. The roads in Cedar Park were surprisingly in good shape and they never lost their electric power during the storms although they still don't have telephone or internet service. Of the 400 people that live in Cedar Park, 99 have chosen to stay. The people that we met are thankful that we are willing to help them. They seem to be for the most part pretty much self sufficient and close knit community. We met Mary, who lives as close to the top of Storm Mountain as you can get. She has lived for 20 years off the power grid, has a small solar array that powers her computer, which allows her to communicate with the outside world via Skype. Propane runs her refrigerator and stove. We had fun driving Mary across the valley to her house, she's one neat lady.

A few days later Jim D, Darwin and Colleen drove two men up to Cedar Park and then down into Cedar Springs to collect some of their belongings and winterize their houses. It was raining lightly and they got into the clouds. As they progressed up the trail, several spots were getting bad but they soldiered



on, eventually reaching Cedar Park. After a few hours their work was done and it was time to return the way they came. Keep in mind, it had rained all day. By the time they reached the bogs, they were a mess. In the few short hours since they had passed this way, it was evident that other people had been having trouble crossing the bog as several logs had been tossed in. Jim tried several times to get through only to get stuck. The final time he got stuck in the middle, Jim had enough of

this foolishness and jumped out of his Jeep into the knee deep cold muck, waded around to the winch and pulled the cable 75 feet to the nearest big tree. He had to wade back to the Jeep and jump in. After a successful winch pull, Jim was able to strap Darwin across the obstacle. This process took an hour and they still had several more bogs to cross. Jim said that the two men riding with them will never forget this adventure, but neither will Jim, Darwin and Colleen.



The next Mountaineer to make the trip to Cedar Springs was Bob Schleppey. He took Clifton and two friends up the Bobcat Trail to Cedar Springs and then down to the Glen Haven area. The objective of their trip was to winterize a house, pack two vehicles with belongings and drive the vehicles back to town. Because the Bobcat Trail is a Fort Collins City Park, normally only horses, bicycles and walkers are

allowed to use it, no motorized vehicles. It was opened to 4WD vehicles only because of the flood emergency. Bob described the 6-mile long trail as easy and beautiful with only one bog to contend with (there is a go around). It took less than a hour to do the whole trail. It does go through the 2000 Bobcat fire area for about a mile of the trail and you can see some historic teepee rings along the way.

The last trip as of this writing also went up the Bobcat. Bill Marquart got a call from three ladies who had to retrieve some of their belongings from their homes in Cedar Springs. Bill enlisted the help of Craig and Jim D. for the trip. It was an uneventful and fun trip for all involved.

The Mountaineers have received several offers via e-mail from other 4 wheelers to help us with transportation but we have been able to handle all the requests and thank them for their offers to help. For clarification, anyone wanting to go on Forest Road 153 or the Bobcat trail must have Sheriffs permit issued to a resident of the effected flood area and that person has to be in the vehicle with you. They are checking ID's closely as they have caught several people with counterfeit permits who just want to go for a joy ride. You can go in a convoy on one permit as long as multiple vehicles are needed to get the job done. Cedar Park and Cedar Springs are one community, Cedar Park being the upper part towards Storm Mountain, the area with the views and not electrified. The terminus of FS-153 is in Cedar Park. The end of the Bobcat is in Cedar Springs that is in the valley and those people have electric power. For the most part all the trips made were fun but the best part was helping our new friends when they needed it.

After making numerous trips for the next two weeks up to Storm Mountain/Cedar Park area, the Mountaineers were finally able to gain access to Glen Haven to assist them in their cleanup efforts. The small Town of Glen Haven was all but wiped off the map from the Flood. This was especially close to our Four-wheel family as one of our long time members Clifton DeWitt is a volunteer Fire Fighter for the Community of Glen Haven, and was greatly affected by the Flood as the night it started he was out of his vehicle checking road conditions and was swept into the rushing water along with his truck. He managed to climb out of the water and to safety, but not the same could be said for his rig. It was later found almost a mile down stream and completely destroyed.

I don't think that there is a Mountaineer that hasn't been personally affected by or knows someone that has been touched be the terrible flooding along the Front Range and then out into the Great Plains. The first Mountaineer to realize how bad a flood it was, was probably Clifton DeWitt (unit #25). Here, I am going to quote an article entitled "Firefighter in the water" from the Sunday Denver Post (9-29-13), which will tell the story better that this writer can:

"Volunteer firefighter Clifton DeWitt was on his way back to Glen Haven after helping an ambulance reach a resident at H Bar G Ranch in Estes Park. He was coming down the switchbacks on county Road 43 when a call came in asking him check on how the roads were holding up. DeWitt parked his Toyota Tacoma in front of a gaping hole in County Road 43 and got out. The road looked OK, like it would hold. Then he heard a metal barricade fall. He looked back and the beams of his headlights began to swing around, his truck pushed by a force he could not see. DeWitt ran two or three steps toward the

truck before a wall of debris struck him at his knees, knocked him down and swept him into the river. He was under water.'

"DeWitt held his radio in one hand and a heavy-duty flashlight, the kind firefighters take into smoky houses, in the other. Below the surface, he could see the beam of light cutting through muddy darkness. DeWitt bobbed up and put his radio to his mouth. "I'm in the stream" he said. His colleagues heard his muffled voice over the radio. The swift-water training Dewitt had received kicked in. He made sure his feet were positioned downstream and his head was upstream, and swam for shore. He reached it, pulled himself out and scampered 12 to 15 feet up a rock face, his flashlight in his mouth. He was shaking badly. DeWitt looked up river. There was his truck, floating like a log, its headlights illuminating a cabin that had been ripped from its foundation and swept into the floodwaters."

"DeWitt heard one of his fellow firefighters call over the radio: "Firefighter in the water". He thought DeWitt was trapped in his truck. His pants torn, a kneecap broken, DeWitt climbed over a rock ledge and made his way to Tom Housewrights back porch. "We thought he was dead, said Kelly Housewright, Tom's wife. "Just the way the water was running, those sounds, I could hear propane tanks, the house, his truck". DeWitt has been asked many times whether he was scared, and his answer is no. I thank God he helped me get out of that," he said. "He was really watching over me that night."

Clifton is on the mend now and is back at work. He has strict orders from his Fire Chief not to do that again. His truck was found ¾ of a mile down river and it was back up on the road again with broken asphalt, logs, mud and rocks piled up against it --- it was totaled. Anybody want to buy a slightly used Toyota Tacoma truck? Clifton, the Mountaineers are happy that you came through your ordeal with just minor injuries. Hope to see you soon

The first trip to Glen Haven occurred on October 12, 2013 with a total of 15 volunteers and 8 rigs. It was a long trip for those that volunteered to get from Fort Collins to Glen Haven, as the only way to get there at the time was through Boulder Canyon and into Estes Park. It took almost three and a half hours of driving each direction. Once there we were able to see first hand the destruction that Mother Nature can do. Roads were gone, bridges and buildings wiped out as though there was never anything there. But one thing stood strong, the newly constructed Fire House that was only 90 percent complete at the time the flood hit. This building now serves two purposes, as the Glen Haven Volunteer Fire Station, and the Towns meeting center for the residents and volunteers.



We can say this about Glen Haven; the residents are Glen Haven Strong and Hillbilly Tough just as they say. We were amazed at the dedication these residents have to not let this get them down. They are determined to get their quiet little town cleaned up and rebuilt, and accept that this will take them an enormous amount of time. Since that first trip that "The Mountaineers" took to Glen Haven on October 12, 2013 we have lead cleanup efforts almost every



weekend since then, and have vowed to continue these efforts until all the work is completed. We have



logged over 1,000 volunteer hours to date, and are willing to log 1,000+ more if needed. We will not sit and watch a great town like Glen Haven be forgotten.

Some of the projects we have been working on include; clearing debris from the rivers and streams, removing trees and logs from the rivers and streams, cutting and splitting firewood for the residents of Glen Haven as most lost all their firewood during the flood, hauling in fill dirt that has been donated by the Boy Scouts Camp in Estes Park and most of all just showing the residents that there are still people willing to help out. On many if not all of the days we have volunteered the residents have made sure that we were all feed by making us a delicious lunch served at the Fire House.



If you or your Club is interested in Helping with these efforts feel free to contact The Mountaineers at president@mountaineers4x4.org with any questions. We are always looking for additional help and resources to help in any way possible.

For additional information you can also contact Thomas Graff at CF4x4dispatch@gmail.com or check them out on Facebook at CF4x4.

Written by:

Jim Dixon- President of Larimer County Four Wheel Drive Club- aka The Mountaineers

president@mountaineers4x4.org

And Craig Stumbough

Whistlepig4x4@comcast.net



February Newsletter

February 2014						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Chris Mercer
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 BOARD MEETING <i>Kyle Eddy</i>	11	12	13	14 A&A Burch	15 Cara Thoen G&J Meyers
16 Nicholas Kemp Michelle Opdyke	17	18	19 CLUB MEETING	20	21	22 Chris Kapperman
23 CLUB TRIP	24	25 Colleen Stengaard	26	27	28 Gene Kapperman	Judy Heiderscheidt

March 2014						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Patrick Burch	3 Brandon Kapperman	4 Paul Dangler Jeff Paben	5 Tasha Opdyke	6	7 Evan Meyers	8
9	10 BOARD MEETING <i>Michelle Opdyke</i> Kent Schmidt Rosemary McCurry	11 Travis Golly	12	13	14	15 Darren Finger
16 Janice Marolf	17	18	19 CLUB MEETING Kelly Kapperman	20	21	22 Lindsay Weegans
23/30 CLUB TRIP Craig Stumbough	24/31	25 Nate Adams	26 Lori Golly	27 Sheila Mueller	28 Todd McCurry T&R McCurry	29

Board Meeting: Mar. 10 7:30pm Michelle Opdyke
 Apr. 7 7:30pm Dave Oden
 Membership Meeting: Feb. 19 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Mar. 19 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Club Trip: Feb. 23 9:00am **King Soopers Parking Lot N. College & Willox**

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<p>Bullhide Liner 4X4 & Auto Accessories 5817 South College Ave. Ft. Collins, Colorado 970-224-2288</p>	<p>Always A Deal Inc. Computer Services Johnstown, Colorado 970-310-7547 www.AlwaysaDeal.info</p>	<p>Moab 4x4 Outpost 1831 S Hwy 191 Moab, Utah 435-259-0911</p>
<p>Horsepower Auto Brokers, LLC 417 N US HWY 287, Ft. Collins 970-482-2579 www.horsepowerauto.com</p>	<p>Maresh Cabling, LLC 3400 Saratoga St. Unit C Wellington CO 80549 970-556-7276 dommcabling@gmail.com</p>	<p>RockStomper P.O. Box 724 Firestone, Colorado 303-833-1431</p>
<p>Fry's Auto Care 210 Commerce Dr. Ft. Collins 970-310-7195</p>	<p>Wellington Toy Storage 4000 Washington Ave. Wellington, Colorado 970-498-2111 www.wellingtontoystorage.com</p>	<p>Fort Collins 4x4 Center 1101 N. College Ave. Fort Collins, CO 970-482-5500</p>
<p>February Newsletter</p>		



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

