
MOUNTAIN-EARS

LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

June Club Trip

This Month's Club Trip will be to Bunce School Road. We will be going to the T-33 crash site. Please meet at the Wal-Mart in Longmont on the corner of Hwy 287 & Hwy 66. We will leave at 9:00am Sunday June 22nd.



May Club Trip

Seven Mountaineers and guests met on Sunday, Memorial Day weekend, to try our luck on a trail that stopped us in our tracks last January. As we couldn't do our annual Kelly Flats & Seven Mile campout and trail cleanup this year, the club brain trust in their infinite wisdom decided to make the loop of the Black

Guests at Last Meeting

Larry Glenn

Carl Malone

Summer Trip to Buena Vista

This year we are going to be spending a week in Buena Vista and running the trails in the area. We will be spending the week of June 21st through 27th in Buena Vista because the altitude is higher and the trails should be open in late June. The RV park is about 1.5 miles north of Buena Vista at 30430 North Highway 24 (800) 954-8481. Just like we do in Moab we will be meeting each morning at City Market in Buena Vista to leave for our trips. City Market is on the south end of town.

Hollow and Crown Point trails. After leaving the King Soopers parking



lot promptly at 9:00 the small group headed up the Poudre River Valley. It was a beautiful trip as the valley was lush green because of all the rain we have had and the river was at peak flow. After a quick stop at the Century Park potty box we turned off on the Pingree Park Road and continued up the hill to the Crown Point Road. At this point there was no snow and every camping



spot along the road was taken by people taking advantage of the three day weekend.

About a half a mile from Black Hollow turnoff we started to notice deep snow drifts on the left side of the road but we were still able to drive on the right side

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where there was dirt showing, Craig was in the lead but he was stopped when he saw a huge drift covering the whole road. Where he was stopped was only 100 feet from Black Hollow. Craig slowly tried the middle of the drift to see if it was packed hard enough to drive over the top. He immediately sunk to the bumper but was able to back out and try the right side with the same results. Craig's Jeep would only slide sideways towards some trees every time he gave it some reverse power. Darwin positioned his Jeep so he could use his winch and Jim D. took the line, a tree saver and snatch block and started into the drift to get the right angle for the pull. Poor ol' Jim, he sunk in the snow to his belt line every time he took a step and was plum tuckered out by the time he got to the big tree. All it took was a light pull from Darwin's winch and was able to back out. While stopped, we were all estimating how big the drift

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was, best guess was 8 to 10 feet.

We all turned around and headed to the Swamp Creek area to see if we could find some snow there. When we pulled into the parking area above Seven Mile, where we found Ranger Lenora parked, eating her lunch. We decided that lunch sounded pretty good about now and we joined her. Jim did offer to drive her down to



the meadow to see how bad the conditions were. But she wouldn't take him up on the offer. She did tell us about all the damage at the Bellaire Lake Campground from the tornado that struck the area a few days before. As there was no snow in Swamp Creek to play in, we wanted to see what kind of damage an F-1 or F-2 tornado would do. Off we went up the Manhattan Road towards Red Feather Lakes. Just before the Bellaire campground we

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started to see several fallen trees. Pretty soon it was total devastation. It appeared as if some big giant came along and played a mean game of pick-up-sticks with the trees. It wasn't like a blow down area with the trees laid out pointed in the same direction. Some trees were splintered but most were thrown about in a hap-hazard manner and a few were even twisted up like a pretzel. It was amazing to see firsthand the power that tornados have. The campground had just opened for the season and there were only a few campers there and luckily none were hurt.

We ended our day in Red Feather Lakes with a quick trip down Elf Lane. Even though we didn't come close meeting our trip objective on the day, we all had some fun as it is with every Mountaineer family outing.

El Guapo



Superheroes Still Keep Watch

The last vestiges of dusk fade from the sky as the ignition turns to crank this venerable container of six cylinders into motion. The mode of transport? Jeep chassis designation: XJ. The Cherokee. A magnificent vehicle of exploration, replete with cargo rack, flood lights, winch, and an intrepid team of wide-eyed space travelers packed inside. Recovering mooring lines and answering backing bells, she moves with large, beefy tires in a stately grace, eschewing the drydock of a cluttered garage in exchange for the open road. Turning now to maneuver into our main asphalt channel, headlights splash across the mailbox and the order is given: All ahead flank speed.

We are in pursuit of the Perseid meteor shower. My wife questions my sanity as two sleepy children sit strapped into the back seat. Bedtime came and went two hours ago. They ask when they should make a wish. I tell them the stars favor us and they can make as many as they want. Tonight there are no rules save for the speed limit.

Our course takes us north and west, out of the bright lights of Fort Collins. I don't miss a place sullied and poisoned with an infection of loud music, late-night pub crawls, and directionless vagrants. The moan of tires in accompaniment with the steady roar of the engine and the cold rush of evening wind through the windows make for a comforting symphony. Like many troubled

superheroes, I, the Irish Avenger, seek solace in the simple things, far from urban white noise and the uncertainty of life piled into neatly organized boxes on streets. I seek the dark. I seek the quiet. I seek the mystery. I have no cape, nor winged boots, but the cost of daily miracles in raising my children is stress and a fractured heart. I seek medicine.

Highway 287 is busy for 10:30pm. I join a long line of truckers heading north towards Wyoming, and we pick up some chatter on the CB radio. Greasy small talk, profanity laced, mixes with well wishes for a safe trip as they pass out of radio range. I wonder about the feat of American transport. But I do not doubt. Eighteen-wheelers are red blood cells laden with oxygen, and the highways their capillaries. We all need air to breathe.

Passing Livermore and The Forks Restaurant (an establishment that refuses to die), we slow to make a left turn at Cherokee Park Road. Our heading is two-seven-zero now. Due west. Asphalt gives way to wash boarded gravel, but inside I am smiling because I know out there somewhere the arms of the mountains welcome me once again.

End of Part 1,

Please tune in next month for the rest of the tail.

Club Sponsors

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Editor's Note

Just a reminder, I could use some Member's Rides, Email the info and a picture to newsletter@montainees4x4.org

If you take pictures on our club trips and want to share them, please upload them on our Facebook page. (I can use them in the newsletter)

Members Rides

Member: Justin Treece #62

Vehicle: Chevy Blazer

Engine: sb 350

Transmission: 700R4

Transfer Case: Stock

Front End: GM 10 bolt 3.73 gears

Rear End: GM 12 bolt with Lock-Right and 3.73 gears

Wheels & Tires: 33x12.50R15 Hurcles Trail Digger M/T on Stock Wheels

Springs & Shocks: Rancho

Brakes: Stock

Miscellaneous: Magumn s3 CB, Custom front bumper with Warn 9.5 XI winch

Current & Future Projects: One Ton axles, Roll Cage and ARB air lockers

June 2014						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Dave Surface	6 Nicole Riley	7
8	9 BOARD MEETING <i>Craig Stumbough</i>	10 Linda Castell	11 J&L Faben	12 Jake Schrader	13	14 S&S Payton
15	16 D&C Surface	17	18 CLUB MEETING	19 G&S Kappeman	20	21 D&B Klein
Aaron Faben	Dan Verrick					Chris McCurry Heidi Kemp Ryan Castell Tyler Lewis
22 CLUB TRIP	23 Brianna Odyke	24	25 Amy Kemp	26 Candice Faben	27 Garrett Mercer Laurie Faben	28
	B&J Paul					
29	30 Hannah Eddy					

July 2014						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Roger Stengard Alex Paul	2 Jake Thoen	3	4	5
		D&S Jansen				
6 Kevin Castell	7 BOARD MEETING Jake Thoen	8	9 Curtis Smelker	10	11	12
13 Linda Schrader Ken Kinnison	14	15 Julie Stone	16 CLUB MEETING	17 Troy Helgeson	18	19 Aaron Eddy Dustie Treece
20 CLUB TRIP	21 Jake Adams Allen Burch	22	23	24 Donna Kinnison Sharon Jansen Stephanie Payton	25	26 Macy Thoen
			I			
27	28	29	30	31		

Board Meeting: Jul. 7 7:30pm Jake Thoen
 Aug. 11 7:30pm Cliff Dukes
 Membership Meeting: Jun. 18 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Jul. 16 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Club Trip: Jun. 22 9:00am **Wal-Mart Parking Lot Hwy 287 & Hwy 66**

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