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# MOUNTAIN-EARS

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## LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

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### June Club Trip

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June's Club Trip we will either do our Kelly Flats Campout or Moody Hill depending on permissions from the Forest Service. So please stay tuned to our Facebook page for details, we will also announce it at our Membership Meeting. Trip Date Sunday June 21.



### May Trip Report

The weather cleared up enough to go on the much anticipated trip up to Mike and Bianca's new property on Mount Ethel. The trip was restricted to the better equipped club and guest vehicles as the climb up the mountain would be too much of a challenge for vehicles with smaller tires and no

## Guests at Last Meeting

Eileen Bullig

Bradley & Rhea  
Mikkelson

lockers. We had 18 vehicles turn out for the trip which left the King Soopers parking lot at the appointed time. After a short trip up Rist Canyon, we stopped at the Stove Prairie School to air down and unload trailers.

We traveled down the road about a half a mile to Mike's hidden "driveway". As soon as we make a right turn off the pavement, you find yourself going into a deep borrow pit and up a steep loose dirt hill onto a fence line trail. We were already using our



lockers just to get off the pavement! We followed the fence until we came to the first of several switchbacks. As we climbed to higher elevations, the views became more spectacular off to the west of us. On all the switchbacks we had to back up at least once to get around. We eventually came to the

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landing where Mike and Bianca have built a small log cabin and has visions of building several more. Only one vehicle couldn't make the final steep climb. Jake and Cara's Toyota kept saying "I think I can, I think I can" but it couldn't and they had to walk the final 30 feet to the landing.

Once we all were together again, Mike took us on a walking tour of the area to point out his vision of some extreme trails that he is planning along with some moderate trails that will make a loop across the top of Mount Ethel and back. Meanwhile back at the cabin, some of the ladies were scrambling to find some dry firewood so some could cook their lunch. We met Mike's mountain neighbor, Mat Lee, who brought out his "King of the Hammers" competition vehicle to add to the fun of the day. Across the valley we heard some thunder and could see rain storms building and moving our way. Mike

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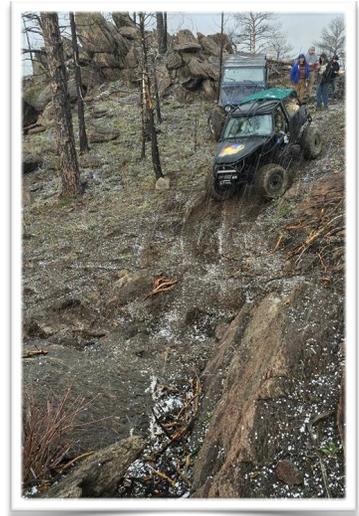
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Wellington CO

970-556-7276

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

pointed out to Jake Adams and Mat a rugged rock climb he called “Oil Pan Alley”. Of course Jake and Mat couldn’t resist the temptation and started to attack the challenge just as it started to rain. The light rain made it even more of a challenge, but they were determined beat the rocks into submission. The rain turned into pea size hail which eventually turned the ground white. Even the hail didn’t deter them from trying to climb the rocks, that is, until a couple of lightning strikes hit ground very close by which scattered spectators and wheelers alike. It was like rats deserting a sinking ship. The crowd dispersed rather quickly to their respective vehicles, and down the mountain they went, slipping & sliding on the hail all



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the way to pavement. The lightning strikes were just too close for comfort.

Neither Jake or Mat could conquer “Oil Pan Alley” on this day, but both swear that it will be done the next time! Although we only got to spend a couple of hours on Mount Ethel, it was time well spent seeing some new country and wheeling with the Mountaineer family. Mike and Bianca have a lot of plans for their 40 acres. Cabin #2 is already under construction. It will be an observatory with a sliding roof for star gazing. Mike also envisions some of the best 4 wheeling trails in the area, extreme to moderate. Stay tuned! Thank you Mike and Bianca for sharing your property with the club.

El Guapo



## May Trip Report Part 2

With our first trip this month being to Mt. Ethel it was decided to also have a second trip for members that could not make it as well as a trip for guests to come along on. On Sunday May 31st we began to meet at the Longmont Walmart for a trip to Bunce School Road and Iron Clads, but with the recent opening of the T-33 Plane Crash trail it was decided to skip Iron Clads and go for that along with Bunce School Rd. The trip began with 5 Mountaineers and 2 guests along for the day.

We made our way through Lyons and eventually to the trailhead where we found the parking packed full of ATV's from the local rental company out of Estes Park and were forced to proceed up the trail for ½ mile to find another location to air-down for the trip. As we were airing down we answered some questions for one of our guests Byron as this was his first outing with us and one of the firsts for his new Toyota Tacoma that was bone stock. Everyone had fun heading across Bunce School Rd. as it is a fairly easy trail, and everyone was happy to see some of the more difficult areas returning to the way they once were after the repairs that were made from the 2013 Flood and the route is no longer a graded road now.

Once we reached the Park Creek turnoff it was decided that it would be best for our new friend Byron not to continue with his

stock Tacoma as the trail was going to get much rougher. He happily parked his rig in a camp spot and jumped in with Jim for the remainder of the trip to the Plane Crash site. Along the way as we climbed in elevation we started to see some snow drifts along the sides of the trail, but none were into the trail at this point. There were two incidents along the way as our other guest Mike had a run in with a tree to the passenger door due to his transfer case popping out of 4 lo. He was not upset about his new custom work on the door and says he will be back for another trip with us. The other incident we had was when Evan Schiably took the wrong line on one of the rock obstacles and lifted a rear tire about 3 feet in the air and thankfully there was a tree that stopped him from going any further.



After returning back to Byron's rig we made our way through the rest of Bunce School Rd. into Camp Dick to air up and head home. It was a good trip with only a couple minor incidents but no breakage on the trail along with making some new friends that are looking forward to their next outing with the Mountaineers.

June 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 J&L Paben	5 Dave Surface	6 Nicole Riley
7 S&S Payton	8 <b>BOARD MEETING</b> <i>Dan Venrick</i>	9 D&C Surface	10 Linda Castell	11	12 Jake Schrader	13 G&S Kapperman
14 D&B Klein	15 Aaron Paben	16 Dan Venrick	17 <b>CLUB MEETING</b>	18	19	20
21 <b>CLUB TRIP</b> Christopher McCurry Heidi Kemp Ryan Castell Tyler Lewis	22	23 Brianna Opdyke  B&J Paul	24	25 Amy Kemp	26 Candice Paben	27 Garrett Mercer Laurie Paben
28	29	30 Hannah Eddy				

July 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Roger Stengaard Alex Paul  D&S Jansen	2 Jake Thoen	3	4
5	6 <b>BOARD MEETING</b> <i>Jake Thoen</i>  Kevin Castell	7	8	9 Curtis Smelker	10	11
12	13 Linda Schrader Ken Kinnison	14	15 <b>CLUB MEETING</b> Julie Stone	16	17 Troy Helgeson  B&M Opdyke	18
19 <b>CLUB TRIP</b> Aaron Eddy Dustie Treece	20	21 Jake Adams Allen Burch	22	23	24 Donna Kinnison Sharon Jansen Stephanie Payton	25
26 Macy Thoen	27 Judy Claus	28 Kinley LeDeaux	29	30 Kevin Lewis	31 B&R Noehl	

Board Meeting: Jul. 6 7:30pm Jake Thoen  
 Aug. 10 7:30pm Justin Treece  
 Membership Meeting: Jun. 17 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
 Jul. 22 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
 Club Trip: Jun. 21 9:00am **King Soopers Parking Lot N. College & Willox**

## Members Ride

**Member Name:** Jim & Melony Dixon #70

**Ride Make & Model:** 09 Jeep Wrangler JKU

**Engine:** 3.8 L Mini Van Engine

**Transmission:** Stock

**Transfer Case:** Stock

**Front End:** Pro Rock 44 Unlimited, Eaton E-Locker, RCV Axle Shafts, HD Ball Joints

**Rear End:** Dana 44, Eaton E-Locker

**Wheels & Tires:** 17" Hutchinson Rock Monster Double Bead Locks, 37x13.50 Toyo Open Country M/t's

**Springs & Shocks:** Rough Country 2.5" Lift Springs, Rancho RS7000 Shocks

**Brakes:** Stock

**Miscellaneous:** Rock Hard Sport Cage, Custom Front Bumper w/ Warn VR10000 Winch, Custom Sliders, Smitty Built Rear Bumper w/ Tire Carrier.

**Current & Future Projects:** Atlas Twin Stick t-case and Pro Rock 60 Rear Axle



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

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The Mountaineers  
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