

---

# MOUNTAIN-EARS

---

## LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

---

### March Club Trip

---

The Club Trip will be to Seven Mile. (North King Soopers at 8:30 am and leave at 9:00 am) March 19. We are planning on entering from the North and running Seven Mile backwards.



## February Trip Report

*Happy Jack*

This month's trip was planned to be our kids' day of sledding up at the Happy Jack Recreation Area just outside of Laramie. We were even going to have our normal community hot pot of chili cooked on the campfire to be shared with the whole group. Trip Planner John went up to Happy Jack right before the meeting to check it out. On the way up he checked out the Pumpkin Vine Road and found no snow. The Happy Jack parking area was a mud quagmire

## Guests at Last Meeting

Mike & Seleta  
Nothnagel

Mike Klaege

Nick Valente

Isaac Sporleder

## New Member

Nick Valente #100

## 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. Many will be camping at the Snowy Peaks RV Park

Address: 30430 US-24,  
Buena Vista, CO 81211

Phone:(719) 395-8481

and the snow was fast disappearing on the sledding hills. At the membership meeting John gave his condition report and Tim said he knew of a couple of trails in the area that would have snow so we changed the trip.

On the appointed Sunday we had fourteen eager Mountaineers in a convoy headed north up

Highway 287

towards our

destination. Craig

led us to the

Pumpkin Vine Road

which takes off

from 287 a few miles

after crossing the Wyoming state line. We

snaked our way across the beautiful snowless

Wyoming prairie. It was strange not to have

any snow on the road in mid-February. It was a

fast trip until John called out on the CB that his

trusty FJ-40 had quit running. John told the

group to go on and said that Colleen and Carl

would stay behind while he made repairs. The

group moved on and made a left onto

Monument Road which took us under a set of

UPRR tracks, over another set of tracks and

through a ranch yard. We eventually ended up

at the Ames Monument which is a large

pyramid out in the middle of nowhere. John,

Colleen and Carl caught up with us at the



## Club Sponsors

### **Bullhide Liner 4x4 & Auto Accessories**

5817 South College Ave.  
Ft. Collins CO  
970-224-2288

### **Horsepower Auto Brokers, LLC**

417 N. US HWY 287  
Ft. Collins CO  
970-482-2579

[www.horsepowerauto.com](http://www.horsepowerauto.com)

### **Fry's Auto Care**

210 Commerce Dr.  
Ft. Collins CO  
970-310-7195

### **4X4 Off Road**

1713 Willox Ct,  
Ft. Collins  
970-224-1133

[www.4x4offroadnetwork.com](http://www.4x4offroadnetwork.com)

### **Lee's Towing**

Red Feather  
970-587-5711

[www.leestowing247.com](http://www.leestowing247.com)

monument. It didn't take too long to diagnose the problem which was just a loose fuse.

After we made a quick stop at the Lincoln Rest Area, Tim took over the lead. It was only ten minutes to the trailhead. When we got to the trailhead we found that the Medicine Bow National Forest had closed the trail two days before we got there. Tim said the trail is normally open until mid-March and is closed at that time to cut back on resource damage. Tim read the closure sign posted on the gate which said that it was closed by special order of the forest supervisor. We can only speculate that

they had to close it earlier than normal due to the early snow melt. Tim thought that the Vedauwoo road should be open, so off we



went. We found that that road was closed for the same reason as was every road in the area. If the road wasn't paved, it was closed.

With no place to play in the immediate area it was decided to go back home via a different route across Wyoming prairie. After a quick stop at Buford we got back on I-80 to Harriman Road and Granit Canyon and got to see more of

**NAPA Auto Parts**

316 S. Link Ln.  
Ft. Collins

**Always A Deal Inc.**

Computer Services  
Johnstown  
970-310-7547

[www.AlwaysADeal.info](http://www.AlwaysADeal.info)

**Maresh Cabling, LLC**

3400 Saratoga St. Unit C  
Wellington  
970-556-7276

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

**Wellington Toy Storage**

4000 Washington Ave.  
Wellington  
970-498-2111

[www.wellingtontoystorage.com](http://www.wellingtontoystorage.com)

**Moab 4X4 Outpost**

1831 S. Hwy 191  
Moab Utah  
435-259-0911

**RockStomper**

PO Box 724  
Firestone Colorado  
303-833-1431

the Wyoming back country. Although we never got to put our vehicles in 4WD, the day wasn't a total loss as several in our group had never been on these roads before. All in all, it was just a drive in the park but still a fun day for the Mountaineer family.



El Guapo



## Alternative Trip

### *Ironclads*

On February's trip day three mountaineers decided to venture out on their own. Jim Bridge had chained up all four 37" Iroks on Old Black with aggressive chains. Joe Holt had Traveller shoed up with some 37" deep lug R1 tractor tires outfitted with 1/4" ice studs. As an official trip planner for the Mountaineers organization, Jake Thoen decided he better tag along to make sure



that Joe and Jim did not get themselves into trouble. Not that Joe and Jim would ever need

any adult

supervision...Having said that, putting Jake in charge of keeping those two out of trouble makes no sense at all.



The destination was Ironclads. Joe and Jim had attempted to make the entire loop a couple of weeks earlier with Carl Malone along. Although a lot of fun, that attempt was futile, they were unable to make the entire loop. Jim only had the front of Old Black chained up with some wimpier chains he had borrowed from Joe. Vowing to do better next time, he quickly set himself up with the right gear to make another attempt. The additional two weeks of snow melt also worked in their favor.

From the previous weeks experience, it was known that the clockwise rotation would be the more difficult direction to conquer the trail. So of course, this would be the way to go. Joe took the lead and made it much further than his attempts performed the week before. This gave him great enthusiasm as he continued to try and bust his way up the trail. Jim followed suit and off they went. Before too long both rigs were

within a few feet of each other buried in snow and dirt with plenty drifts and logs to create hazards for the onward march.

Not being ones to give up easily, the three Mountaineers opted to continue this direction. There was plenty of pulling and winching over the next hour or so. Joe's winch line was broken and with temporary repairs, broke several more times. It was determined that Joe may need a new one. Somehow during this process Old Black ended up with a bent front tow hook. Jake did a great job ensuring safe winching practices were followed during the entire process.



After some time of this slow progress, it was decided that if the mountain were to be beat without running into the late evening hours, it had to be done in the counter clockwise direction. Changing the strategy tuned out to be a good decision. After a small glitch or two along the way, it was not too long before too long both rigs were at the top of the trail.

Jim took the lead and was moving along quite well until hitting a particularly deep drift with soft dirt underneath. He worked very hard to get himself free but after a bit of this, it was clear that he would need his winch to proceed. A quick winch and he was free. Joe entered this area with a bit of momentum hoping to make it through and in doing so, show Jim how things were done. This was not to be the case. He hit the holes left by the



flailing 37" chained Irok's and about set off his airbags. Jim quickly volunteered to pull Joe out of this predicament making sure to ask Jake to

document this event. After quite a few violent pulls on a very stiff tow strap with Old Black's LS motor bounced off the rev limiter, Joe was free. There was a short discussion afterwards about the shock of Jim's monster Old Black wailing against poor little Traveller. Jim suggested that maybe next time we would use the Bubba strap he had onboard as it has some elasticity. Thanks Jim...



Once this area was clear it was clear sailing down the other direction. One small hiccup occurred when Joe inadvertently attempted to navigate through a deep drift in two wheel drive. You would think he would know how to work the Atlas by now. One more quick winch and the trail was conquered. First time since the first big snow of the season. Go Mountaineers!

Joe Holt



## Collecting Dues for 2017

The \$45.00 club dues are payable between January and March membership meetings. Last chance to keep your member number.



# Jeep For Sale

## 2006 Jeep LJ Rubicon Unlimited

**\$26,995.00**

Stock 4.0 Straight 6 Cyl High Output  
Automatic Transmission  
33,303 Miles

Custom Radio – Alpine iPod Controller with Sirius Sat.  
CB Overhead Mount  
Seat Covers Jeep Logo Neoprene Red/Black

RockHard Front and Rear Bumpers  
Spare Tire Carrier with Upper Rack  
Rock Guards

15” Mickey Thompson Imitation Classic Lock Wheels  
Wheel Spacers  
35x12.5x15 Goodyear Wrangler MT/R

411 Gears  
1” Body Lift  
Teraflex Long Arm Lift (4” or 6”?)  
Belly Up Kit for Trans/Transfer Kit  
HD Steering Box Steering Linkage and Housing Guards  
Rear CV Joint and HD Drive Line (For 2”-6” of Lift)

Warn M8000 Winch  
Dual Viar Compressors 150psi  
Dual Battery Box Setup

Handiman Jack  
Tube Doors  
Hella Driving Lights  
All Weather Floor Mats

K&N Cold Ari Intake  
Catalytic Converter Back 3” Exhaust System

Blue OX Towing Kit

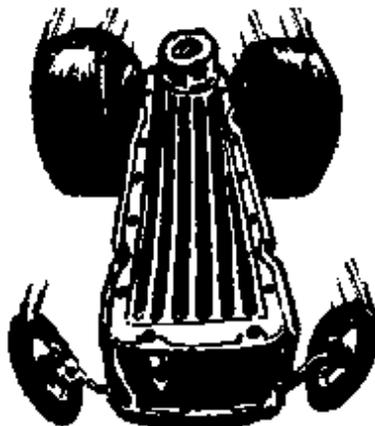


## Valve Cover Race Car Specs:

- 15" maximum width
- 30" maximum length
- 10" maximum height
- 10 lb. maximum weight
- No engines - No propulsion of any kind
- One valve cover per chassis - No switching chassis or cover
- Automotive valve covers only with stock gasket surface
- Nothing can be mounted in front of either the valve cover or chassis
- No moving or movable weight

The race will be for distance, and Best of Show!

We will be racing at the **March** Meeting. **Good luck!!!**



March 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Patrick Burch	3 Brian Schmierer	4 Jeff Paben
5 Tasha Opdyke Hayden Lenderink	6 BOARD MEETING	7 Evan Meyers	8	9	10 Kent Schmidt Arya Graves	11 Travis Golly Steven Donahoe
12	13	14	15 CLUB MEETING Darren Finger	16	17	18
19 CLUB TRIP Josh Lietz Kelly Kapperman	20	21	22 Lindsay Weegans Tammy Peterson	23 A&T Peterson	24 Allen Peterson	25
26 Lori Golly	27 Sheila Mueller	28 Rosie Robinson	29 Robin Noehl	30 Craig Stumbough	31 J&H Derflinger	

April 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 R&R Robinson
2	3	4	5 Christina Eddy Seth Schooler Camiren Meyers	6 Jason Derflinger	7	8 Scott Riley
9	10 BOARD MEETING	11 Byron Noehl	12	13 Bob Schleppey	14	15
16 Jennifer Romero	17 Samantha Lietz	18 Rhea Tippmann Jim Dixon	19 CLUB MEETING	20	21 Aaron Grubbs	22 Justin Treece
23 CLUB TRIP 30 Scott Stultz	24	25 Rich Stengaard	26	27 Dave Oden	28	29

Board Meeting: Apr. 10 7:30pm Dave Surface  
 May 8 7:30pm John Schrader  
 Membership Meeting: Mar. 15 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
 Apr. 19 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
 Club Trip: Mar. 19 9:00am **North King Soopers N. College & Willox**



