
MOUNTAIN-EARS

LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

March Club Trip

This month we will be running Ballard Logging Road. We will leave from our regular Trip Meeting spot at the North King Soopers at 9 am sharp and pickup the southern contingent at Masonville about 9:30 on Sunday Mar. 25



February Trip Report

Seven Mile

Sunday, February 25th, was a fine day to go snow bashing in Northern Colorado. Nineteen vehicles loaded with kids, dogs, guests and Mountaineers headed west up the Poudre Canyon towards a fun day in the sun and snow. Along the way we heard a little bit of the early history of people and places in the canyon on the CB radio. We made the obligatory quick stop at Century Park to unload our morning coffee before the final five mile push to the Seven Mile Creek trailhead. We stopped to

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unload a couple of trailers and to air down our tires.

At the second creek crossing we noticed the buck and rail fence that the club put in a couple of years ago was in need of repair. We will have to fix it on our spring maintenance trip. The Creek crossings were fun and the trip leader was accused of purposely slicking them up. Of

the ten creek crossings on the trail, number six was the only major problem. If you slid crosswise on the ice, you either needed a strap tug or winch pull to get straightened out and up the ice



shelf. Most were able to finesse and or bounce their way across. At the “big meadow” we made the left turn towards the Stump Hill challenge.

Just before Stump Hill, we stopped at the camping spot and cleared away a little over a foot of snow so that we had a place to build a fire and a place to stand and warm up. It wasn't

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long before we had a big enough fire to burn a few hot dogs and enough room for a cooking pot. While all that was going on, Scott K. was investigating a noise in the front end of his Jeep. He discovered that he had lost the lower bolt on a shock. Another Mountaineer came up with a bolt and after a little time with his hi-lift jack the problem noise had been eliminated. Everyone that took the Stump Hill challenge made it to the top of the hill with no problem.

After lunch Darren and Ben took a group of 6 or 7 wheelers up to the spaghetti works of roads in Swamp Creek. The snow on top was deep and drifted. Almost everyone in that group got a turn at either being strapped out or winched out of a drift at one time or another. The rest

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of the group put out the fire and bunched up for the trip out via the Brinkhoff homestead road (FSR 171A) to the ghost town of Manhattan. Last year, there was a timber sale which took out all the trees on the left side of the road for about a mile and all the trees on the right side were left standing. Because of this, the road was drifted with quite a bit of snow. The trick was that you had to keep a fast pace or you would get bogged down or get sucked into the giggly weeds. Craig was in the lead and did just that. He was so buried in the snow that he had to be shoveled out before John S. could get him moving again. Both John and Don in their trusty FJ-40's rescued several along this stretch of the road. Tall and wide tires with 10 pounds of air in them won this day.

All the way home, packed snow was falling off of our rigs from the wheels and undercarriage. It was another fun day in the northern Colorado Mountains with the Mountaineer family.

El Guapo



The Ghost Town of Manhattan

Whenever the Mountaineers come off the Seven Mile Trail, most don't realize that where FS Road 171 intersects with CR 162 you are driving on the main streets (Chestnut & Manhattan) of a town that was called Manhattan. The location of the town is about halfway between Rustic and Red Feather Lakes. Manhattan was founded in 1886 by three hard rock miners that were hired by several Fort Collins businessmen to find gold in the area. As the town grew, it had a one room school house, a general store & post office which opened on March 19th 1887 (closed December 31, 1900), a large dance hall, blacksmith shop, livery stable, meat market and of course the famous Ace of Clubs Saloon which had six beds in one room on the second story and doubled as the Manhattan Hotel. At its peak, the population was said to be over 300.

There are only two landmarks left in the town. One is the "Hangman's Tree" and the second is the Manhattan Cemetery called "Graveyard Gulch" which is ½ mile east of the town site. The Forest Service built a new fence around the cemetery so it is easy to find. There are four known graves but there could be more that are unmarked. Buried there are George Grill and his partner Lawrence J. Mabar who were killed in a mine explosion as well as Mat Ragan who was killed later by a runaway team of horses. In March of 1970, the Forest Service gave special permission to the family of Joseph "Rattlesnake Jack" Brinkhoff for him to be buried in the cemetery. As for the "Hangman's Tree", we can find no reference to anyone actually being hung from that tree.

Alas, the town didn't last too long as the miners didn't find much gold down on Seven Mile Creek. The last cabin to be built in town was constructed by Ed Reynolds in 1911. During its heyday, you could take the Zimmerman's Stage Line from Fort Collins to Manhattan. The 45 mile trip in a Stanley Steamer took all day and cost \$2.50. The US Forest Service built a ranger station about a block above Graveyard Gulch in 1909 which was inhabited until 1935. All of the town is gone now as most of the buildings were either moved to surrounding ranches or as is in the case of the Ace of Clubs Saloon moved down to the Poudre River. In 1935, the Forest Service and the CCC removed all the cabins that were left.

Member's Ride

Members Name & Unit Number: Jason Richards #94

Vehicle Year, Make and Model: '83 Toyota Land Cruiser

Engine: '95 Pontiac Firebird LT1 350

Transmission: 4I60e Automatic

Transfer Case: Dual Transfer case Toyota pickup gear reduction to Land Cruiser split case

Front End: Cruiser axle with ARB 4.56 gears and marlin high steer

Rear End: Cruiser axle with Detroit and 4.56 gears

Wheels and Tires: American Outlaw wheels, 37" Interco Trxus tires

Spring and Shocks: Stock springs flipped spring over rotated knuckles and a torque arm on the rear for axle wrap. Bilstein shocks with 14" travel

Brakes: Stock brakes. Vented and slotted rotors and Tacoma calpers up front, Stock rear, 93 Cruiser master cylinder and Tacoma booster

Miscellaneous: York Air Compressor, Winch, Trimmed fender wells, Stripped it to bare metal body and worked it and painted it.

Future Upgrades: Building a '80 CJ Jeep for my son. We stretched the frame 2 feet, put a '04 Chevy 4.8 V8 in it, a AX15 transmission, NWF blackbox, Dana 300 transfer case, For 9inch rear, Dana 44 front.



Dues are Due

Our Club Dues are due from now until the end of March. Please see Tim Palmer to renew your membership at the club meeting. We are working on adding a PayPal button on the website for you to pay you dues online. Please stay tuned. We will email you when we have added it.



March 2018

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

April 2018

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 BOARD MEETING	10	11 Byron Noehl Randy Dacus	12	13 Bob Schleppey	14
15	16	17 Samantha Lietz	18 CLUB MEETING Rhea Tippmann Jim Dixon	19	20	21 Aaron Grubbs
22 CLUB TRIP Justin Treece	23	24	25 Rich Stengaard	26	27 Dave Oden	28
29	30 Scott stultz					

Board Meeting: Apr. 9 7:30pm Dave Oden
 May 7 7:30pm Scott Riley
 Membership Meeting: Mar. 21 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
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 Club Trip: Mar. 25 **9:00am North King Soopers N.College and Willox**