
MOUNTAIN-EARS

LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

October Club Trip

We will be doing Storm Mountain from the Masonville side.

We will be meeting at 8:30 am and leaving promptly at 9:00 am Sunday October 21 at the North King Soopers. For those who live south of Fort Collins, you may also wait for us at Masonville, we should be coming through about 9:30 am.



Photo by Nick Valente

September Trip Report

Medicine Bow

This month's trip was to the Medicine Bow National Forest in Wyoming. It was suggested, pre run and led by Mountaineer Colleen S. We all met at the intersection of Highways 130 and 230 in Laramie and 13 Vehicles lined up behind the Shell gas station. On the trip to Laramie, just after crossing the state line, we all noticed a smoky haze and smelled the out of control Ryan Forest Fire burning some 30 or 40 miles from where the days trip was going.

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We followed Colleen west on Highway 130 through the little town of Centennial and stopped at the Medicine Bow Ranger station to take advantage of the potty boxes. While milling around the parking lot, a ranger came out to greet us and told us some history of the area and the trails we would be on. She then invited us into the station to sing the “Smokey the Bear”

song with the promise that we all would get a Smokey the Bear bandana



upon completion. No Mountaineer could resist a free bandana so inside we went and sang all 4 stanzas. We weren't the best sounding choir but we all had fun doing it and got a bandana to boot.

We left the Ranger Station and headed into the forest. We ran through groves of Aspens that were beautiful in their bright orange and yellow fall colors. On Snowy Range Pass we finally arrived at our trail destination, Libby Flats, where we stopped to air down. The club hasn't taken a trip on this trail for over 20 years. The

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first part of the trail runs across a couple of miles of tundra with no trees or shrubbery. The whole trail is relatively flat and very rocky. In fact it was so rocky that it really shook up your innards. In between the rocks was very fine dust which kicked up into clouds

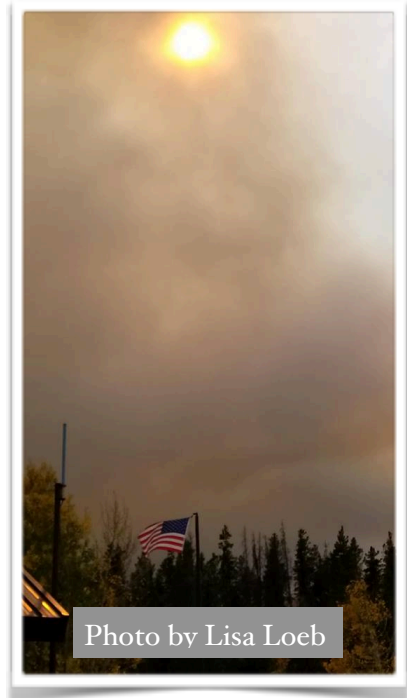


Photo by Lisa Loeb

for the person behind you to eat or if you were lucky and the wind was just right it would blow the dust off to the side. We could run this part of the trail in 2WD until we got to a creek crossing where 4WD low range was necessary to pick our way across. Just pass the crossing we entered the forest. We ran in the trees until we came to a very picturesque' clearing that had two tumbled down log cabins, a perfect place to settle in for lunch and take some pictures.

During the lunch break, someone heard air leaking from one of Colleens' tires. We determined that it was a very slow leak and gave the tire a shot of nitrogen just to get her on down the trail. Also during lunch, it was suggested to a trip planner that when the club

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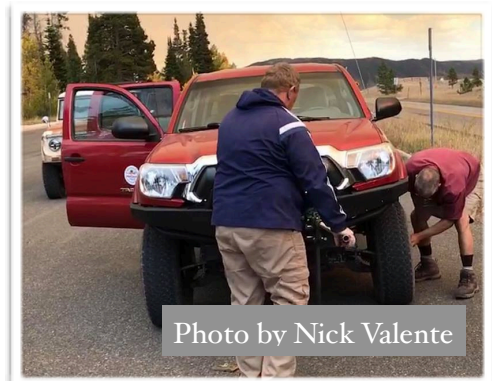
RockStomper

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knows that we will be going on a very rocky trail, that we should forewarn the ladies at the meeting that they should wear a sports bra on the next trip. Ladies, since almost all of our trips are rocky; maybe that piece of comfort apparel should be worn on every trip.



After feeding our faces, we crossed the clearing and back into the forest and more rocks. We finally came to a graded road that took us back into the Aspens. All of a sudden we popped out onto a shelf road with a spectacular vista in front of us. The trail ended up back at the Ranger Station. About half the group headed back to Laramie while the rest stopped to help Colleen change her tire.



The trip back home was uneventful except for Coyote John and Linda in their trusty FJ-40.

When John was near the Pumpkin Vine Road, the check engine light came on and the ol' Land Cruiser came to a stop. While John was trying to figure out what happened, three of our guest vehicles pulled over to help him. They were Shar & Luke, Malcom and Zach. John, in desperation, pulled the distributor cap and discovered a mangled rotor. It was decided that Shar would drive John back to Laramie to pick up a new rotor while Luke and Linda stayed with the Cruiser. We hope Coyote John didn't lose the love for his FJ-40 just because he got to ride in a brand new, smooth riding, powerful performing, fantastic 4 wheel drive machine, the 2018 JEEP JL. Come to the light John!

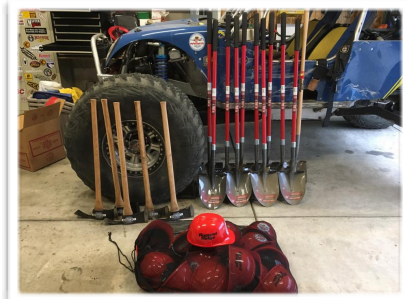
We wish to thank those who came to the aid of John and Colleen. That is why we wheel as the Mountaineer family.

El Guapo



Moody Hill Trail Maintenance

Our Forest Service Rep, Mike C., noticed some of the water bars needed attention last time he went up Moody Hill. On October 6th, he and 9 other club members and guests met to clean out the water bars and pick up trash. Mike previously had gotten a grant to buy shovels, hard hats and Pulaski's from Rugged Ridge (www.ruggedridge.com). This was the first time we got to put them to good use. We cleaned out a couple of water bars on the lower section and then moved up to the top of the meadow to three bars that needed the most attention. They were completely filled and packed with rocks and



debris and it took quite some time to dig them out so that they would work again. It was a fun day of work in the clouds on Moody Hill. To each of those that worked, Mike gave a Rugged Ridge camo floppy hat. The Mountaineer Family did some good on this day. Thanks Mike!



Poudre Canyon Cleanup Saturday, October 20th

We will do our final adopt-a-highway cleanup of 2018 on Saturday, October 20th. Our area of cleanup is between mile marker 117 and 119, which is just a mile or so up the canyon from Ted's place. Please meet at mile marker 119 (picnic rock parking area) at about 8:45 so we can start promptly at 9:00am. Bags and safety vests are provided so all you should have to bring is gloves and a hearty appetite. No, you won't have to eat the road kill; afterwards we will head down to the Braskich Plantation where Mike will be cooking up a blueberry pancake and bacon breakfast for us. Hope to see you there! Guests are welcome. Any questions, call Craig at 221-5524.



October 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 CJ Stone	2 Mike Golly Byron Nash Ryan Adams	3 Marti Helgeson T&B Palmer	4 Clifton DeWitt	5 Patrick Riley Riley Ann Mikkelson	6 Elaine Allbrandt Sarah Paul
7	8 BOARD MEETING Mike Klaege	9	10 Mark Dombrowski	11	12 Gary Helgeson J&L Schrader	13
14 Alice Kinnison S&S Knapp	15	16	17 CLUB MEETING Juna Schmierer	18 A&L Grubbs	19 Rachelle Washburn Dustin Paben	20 Nick Valente
21 CLUB TRIP	22 Tim Palmer Chuck Graves	23	24	25	26 Melony Dixon Peggy Scheck Kyle Haywood	27 Laura Gibbons Michael Luiz
28 Mike Castell Layla Marooney	29	30 Xavier Bettrey	31 J&L Marooney			

November 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Tracy Loeb G&M Helgeson	2 Ron Kapperman	3
4 Andrea Paben Tyler Schleppey R&A Lietz	5	6	7 Anna Mueller Allison Carter	8	9	10 Jason Richards Jake Warner
11 Drew Claus	12 BOARD MEETING Sam Warner	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Jim Jansen	21 CLUB MEETING David LeDeaux Roy Robinson Christian Saavedra	22 Bob Opdyke	23	24 Dick Jansen Kimberley Malone
25 CLUB TRIP	26	27 Bridget Peterson	28 Darold Klein	29 Tom Washburn Adaline Zamora	30	

Board Meeting: Nov. 12 7:30pm Mike Castell
 Dec. 10 7:30pm Bill Dyrenforth
 Membership Meeting: Oct. 17 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Nov. 21 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Club Trip: Oct. 21 **9:00am** North King Soopers N.College and