
MOUNTAIN-EARS

LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

September Club Trip

The Club Trip will be to Storm Mt. on September 24th. We will meet at our regular spot at 8:30 am and leave at 9am.



August Trip Report

Greenridge

It was straight up 9:00 when the horn sounded signaling that it was time to load up. Mountaineers and guests jumped into their Jeeps, Toyotas, a Zuk Rock Crawler and a Ford F350 Crew cab ready for a trip up the Poudre Canyon this beautiful Sunday morning. When the convoy got to Chambers Lake we turned onto the Laramie River Road and soon we found ourselves at the Green Ridge trailhead where we aired down and took advantage of the potty box.

Guests at Last Meeting

Joe Krevinghaus &

Julie Sauter

Scott Knapp

James Elliott

Connor Bowlin &

Hannah Anderson

Right off the bat we knew we were on Green Ridge because of all the puddles full of smelly water that we had to go through. It wasn't



too far into the trail when there was less maneuverable space between the trees, the rocks got bigger and the water got deeper. We were wondering how that big ol' Ford Crew cab



would do on this trail. He had to take a couple of passes in a few places, but I think we all had to do that a time or two. We were

also closely watching a stock 06' Jeep Sport right hand drive (rural mail route delivery vehicle) and how he would manage every little challenge with his small tires. We had no problems with anybody getting through that first section and knew from then on that it was going to be a fun trip.

By the time we got to the "Long Trough" challenge, our group of 15 vehicles was strung out along the trail. While we waited at the Trough for everyone to catch up, we had only

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

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

Lee's Towing

Red Feather
970-587-5711

www.leestowing247.com

one Rubicon wade into the muddy challenge. It didn't look too bad this year as the water level was a lot lower than in the past. About one third of the way through, the Rubicon's front left tire dropped into a hole with a large rock blocking his forward progress. After several fruitless tries he was hopelessly stuck in the muck. We tried to winch him but couldn't pull him out of the hole without the help of a second winch. By the time that we got everyone facing the right way, the rear of the pack had caught up and off we went again.

Our lunch break was taken at the lakes which are about the half way point of the trip. The rest of the trail was a series of water puddles and rocky road through the forest. It was evident that there were a lot of fallen trees over last winter and whoever had to clear the trail this spring did a masterful job. At the end of the trail, there is a deep water crossing which has never been a problem in the past. The leader of the pack was Craig who waded in like normal and barely made it out as the water, it was a lot deeper than normal. Guest James in the mail Jeep didn't have a CB, and didn't hear Craig's warnings not to come through the deep water. James dove in thinking that it was just like all the other water crossings he had been through all day. James made it about halfway through

NAPA Auto Parts

316 S. Link Ln.
Ft. Collins

Always A Deal Inc.

Computer Services
Johnstown
970-310-7547

www.AlwaysaDeal.info

Maresh Cabling, LLC

3400 Saratoga St. Unit C
Wellington
970-556-7276
donmcabbling@gmail.com

Wellington Toy Storage

4000 Washington Ave.
Wellington
970-498-2111
www.wellingtontoystorage.com

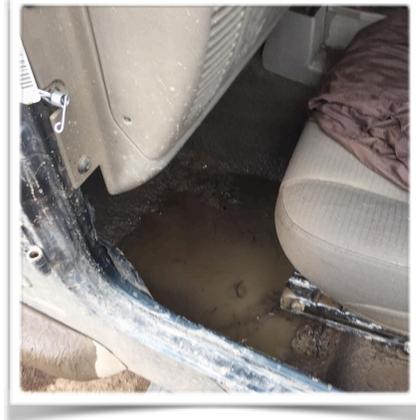
Moab 4X4 Outpost

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

RockStomper

PO Box 724
Firestone Colorado
303-833-1431

when his Jeep quit and he, his wife and her service dog were all sitting in water almost up to their waists. James waded out to fetch the winch line from Craig. With the Jeep on dry land, James opened the back and



a bunch of water came out including the service dogs' bed! Fearing hydro lock after finding the soaked and soggy air filter, Jake told James to pull all the spark plugs and pump all the water out of the cylinders by turning over the engine. With the spark plugs reinstalled, it was time to see if we had any bent or broken rods. Miracle of miracles, that Jeep started right up.

While the Jeep repair was going on, the rest of our group (just to be on the safe side) took an alternate route around the deep water. This was

an established route through a foot and a half of water filled with weeds. The first one through the alternate route was guest Will W. His Jeep looked like a





swamp thing when he got to the other side. All the others took the same route except our tail gunner, Don, who gurgled his way across the deep water. When we hit the main road, we finally could make some good time. It rained lightly all the way into Red Feather which kept the dust down. In Red Feather, Craig took a small group to view Elf Lane and stop to air up the tires.

It was another fun day of wheeling through the beautiful forest with the Mountaineer family.



El Guapo

Mt. Ethel Trip

Sunday August 27

Twelve members and one guest met at the usual spot for the trip to member Mike Braskich's property on Mt. Ethel. A few minutes before departure it was realized that no one in the group knew how to get to the property.

Luckily Craig Stumbough was available to show us the way. It was planned to meet Craig at the intersection of Stove Prairie Road and Rist Canyon Road and he would lead us to the entrance to the property. With that figured out the group left for the hills shortly after 10 am.



It was a nice drive through LaPorte and up Rist Canyon. We stopped at the intersection and Craig arrived just as we did. Everyone air'd down and the few with trailers off loaded their rigs. Once all ready, Craig led is down to the entrance of the property.

The entrance to the property off Stove Prairie Road is somewhat of a "gate keeper obstacle" as there is a deep ditch and an immediate short steep climb. Several of the "stock-ish" vehicles in the group had some difficulties and many drug their bumpers. Even the road going to the property has some challenging spots; tight switchbacks, logs, large rocks, steep climbs, and even a mud hole. Bill Dyrenforth got stuck in the mud hole in his Tacoma and needed assistance to get out. The last climb is fairly steep but everyone made it without issue.

Although the entire area burned during the High Park Fire in 2012, the area is still beautiful and breath taking and recovering nicely, grasses and wild flowers are flourishing. The views across the valley from the property are amazing. Mike has a great area setup to hang out and socialize. The "shed" Mike has built is as stout as any ever constructed and no man or beast will get in without considerable effort.



Once everyone got to the top and had a chance to look around we started a fire to heat up left-over pulled pork from the pig roast the day before. Everyone brought side dishes to share and it was a tasty lunch. After lunch, Mike entertained us by firing several shots out of his cannon that shoots golf balls. The cannon is loud and you can hear the golf balls ricocheting off the rocks and trees across his property, it is very amusing.

After the cannon blasts Mike, Alex Barnes (guest), and myself (Mike Castell) decided to run some of the obstacles available on the property, the obstacles are named by whoever runs them first.

The first was Oil Pan Alley that is right behind the "shed." Mike with his newly redesigned "Jeep" buggy made it look pretty easy with a little blip of the throttle he was up and over. Next I slowly pulled up onto the first climb and made a few attempts to crawl up. After being denied a few times and on the



advice on John Schrader, who said I was looking pretty tippy, I backed off.

Alex was next to attempt the challenge in his "Suzuki Samurai" buggy, there is not much Samurai left. It took a few times to get lined up correctly but once on the line he was able to crawl right up and over.

Next was to drive across the property to another rock outcropping with the obstacles "Blind Faith" and "Sideswipe Alley." Just as the road coming up to the property, the road over to the rock outcropping is a little nerve racking. One section is fairly off camber and it's a long roll down the hill.

Once at the rock outcropping you drive up a steep rock face to access either



obstacle. A sharp right turn takes you down "Blind Faith." It is steep off camber with a sharp right turn and a ledge that and you cannot see any of it from the drivers seat, hence the name.

Of course Mike made it look easy, it's

wheelbase does that. Alex decided to take

"Sideswipe Alley" which is a right turn just past

"Blind Faith." It is a narrow crevasse with ledges

that flexes your suspension and pushes you into a wall. It took a while for

Alex to get lined up where he wanted but then he slowly made the way down only slightly scrapping a tube on the rock. I was next and decided to also take "Sideswipe Alley." With some good spotting from Mike I was able to drive down without scrapping anything. We took a slightly different route back to the main area where everyone else was hanging out.

Once back everyone helped cleanup from lunch and pack up all the chairs and tables. Once everything was put away and the "shed" was secure we headed down the road. The trip down was uneventful except for Colleen Stengaard needing a little spotting getting around a few of the extremely tight corners.



Huge thanks to Mike Braskich for allowing us to have some fun on his property, his generosity to the club never ends and it is very much appreciated. I am pretty sure everyone had a great time and we all look forward to the next time.

Mike Castell



Pig Roast

The Mountaineers enjoyed both beautiful weather and hospitality at what's become our annual pig roast.

Once again Mike and Bianca Braskich welcomed us to their fantastic home.

Club members began trickling in about 2:00pm, setting up chairs, canopies, and staging their delicious side dishes. As usual Mike was tending his super barbecue, it is huge. It even has an electric winch to lift the lid.



Around 4:00pm Mike rang the dinner bell. A long line formed immediately, as the anticipation of the wonderful meal had been building. Succulent pork, salads, beans, deserts, and many other tasty items made up the menu.



Along with bowling, enjoying the lake, new this year was a challenging rockcrawling event for the radio controlled crawlers. The club members that brought their toys let the crawlerless among us use theirs. Some of which cost over \$800!

After eating we all enjoyed reliving stories, talking about our wheelers, and just enjoying each other's company.

John Schrader

Death in the Mountaineer Family

Corinne Jeanette Surface passed away peacefully on September 8 in Greeley, Colorado. She was born in McPherson, Kansas on May 21, 1942 to Ambrose and Dorothy (Olson) Peterson and grew up there. She received her cosmetology license from Sydney's Hairdressing College in Hutchinson, Kansas and owned Curls by Corinne beauty salon for 40 years. She was married to David Lynn Surface on June 9, 1962; they recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. Corinne was a mother of two, a 4-H project leader, a cub scout den mother, played in the Ladies' Bell Choir and was very active in Trinity Lutheran Church in McPherson.



She and David retired and moved to Greeley, Colorado in 2003. Corinne became active in Our Savior's Lutheran Church, in the Greeley Senior Center, and was also a reading tutor at Frontier Academy. She loved sewing, cooking, camping in the mountains of Colorado with her family, reading many books, and of course her dear cats.

She was predeceased by her parents Ambrose and Dorothy, her grandparents, and aunts and uncles. Corinne is survived by her husband David Lynn Surface, sister Kathleen Peterson of Indiana, sister Gloria Brown (Charlie) of Indiana, brother Victor Peterson of Arizona, son Daryl of Iowa, daughter Deb (Norm) of Florida, and grandchildren Zack Pyle, Matt Pyle, Randy Hess, Jessie Surface, and Kyle Surface.

Memorial gifts may be made to any of the Humane Society of Weld County (620 42nd St., Evans, CO 80620), High Plains Library District Foundation (2650 W. 29th St., Greeley, CO 80631), and Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Member's Ride

Members Name & Unit Number: Tim Palmer: #71

Vehicle Year, Make and Model: 2015 Jeep Wrangler JK, 2dr Willy's Edition

Engine: Pentastar V6

Transmission: Automatic

Transfer Case: Standard

Front End: D30 (3.73:1)

Rear End: D44 (3.73:1) with Mopar LSD

Wheels and Tires: 17" Willy's Wheels with 315/70/17 Cooper MTP

Spring and Socks: AEV 2.5" duel sport lift

Brakes: Standard

Miscellaneous: Rockhard front bumper; 12.5k Smittybilt winch with synthetic line; Smittybilt XRT rear bumper with carrier; LED headlights; 50" LED windshield mounted lightbar, Bestop Trek-Top soft top; premium sound; SPOD; Vector Off-Road JKE dash dock; Cobra 75 WX CB radio;

Current and Future Projects: 4.56 gears; front e-locker; Kenwood D710g duel band radio with APRS;



September 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Cotton Riley	8	9
10	11 BOARD MEETING Brett Newton	12 Cameron Klein D&K LeDeaux	13 Jennifer Meyers Mark Richards	14 Cory Kinnison	15	16 Alex Stone Eric Treece C&M Smelker
17	18 S&A Stultz	19	20 CLUB MEETING Skylar Payton	21	22 Heidi Crue	23 Austin Eddy
24 CLUB TRIP Mina Richards Nathaniel DeWitt Troy White Becky Palmer	25 Harper LeDeaux	26 R&K Kapperman	27	28 D&S Oden	29 Bev Klein	30

October 2017						
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 Mike Klaege	9 BOARD MEETING	10	11	12 Gary Helgeson J&L Schrader	13	14 Alice Kinnison
15	16	17 Juna Schmierer	18 CLUB MEETING A&L Grubbs	19 Rachelle Washburn Dustin Paben	20 Nick Valente	21
22 CLUB TRIP Tim Palmer Chuck Graves	23	24	25	26 Melony Dixon Peggy Scheck Kyle Haywood	27 Laura Gibbons	28 Mike Castell Layla Marooney
29	30 Xavier Bettrey	31 J&L Marooney				

Board Meeting: Oct. 9 7:30pm Tim Palmer
 Nov. 6 7:30pm Don Maresh
 Membership Meeting: Sep. 20 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Oct. 18 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Club Trip: Sep. 24 **9:00am** **North King Soopers N. College and Willox**