
MOUNTAIN-EARS

LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

August Club Trip

This Month's Club Trip will be to Bald Mountain unless the Forest Service opens Seven Mile. Please meet at the North King Soopers Wilox and North College. We will leave at 9:00am Sunday August 24th.



July Trip Report

On a beautiful July Sunday morning a large group of Mountaineers and guests gathered in Longmont for a trip up the Middle St. Vrain and Coney Flats 4WD trails. We left Longmont at the appointed time and ran in a caravan through Lyons and up to the Camp Dick campground. As the trailhead

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

It's time to clean up our two mile section of Highway 14 again. Please meet at the Picnic Rock Recreation Area, mile marker 119, which is one mile up Highway 14 from Teds Place. We will start the cleanup at 9:00 am on Saturday August 23rd. Donuts and orange juice will be provided.

Guests at Last Meeting

Michael Swadener

Isaac Sparleder

parking area was packed and our group was so large, we went past Guardian Rock and up the Middle St. Vrain trail a little way before stopping to air down, disconnect the anti-sway bars and lock in our hubs.



About a third of the way into the first trail, we had to wait for a small group in front of us to winch one of their vehicles that had slid off the road. When we started up the trail again, one



of our guest vehicles would not fire up. We got the Mountaineer brain trust together to figure out what the problem was. After about thirty minutes we had fifteen to twenty vehicles waiting behind us and we still hadn't solved the problem yet. The

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guest driver told us to go on without him and his buddy would tow him down to his trailer if need be.

F i n a l l y
moving again,
we were
surprised that



this trail had received very little damage in last year's floods. All along the way, we could pick and choose what line we wanted to take over the rocks and through the water crossings, easy or hard. It made the trail fun for everyone. Towards the top of the Middle St. Vrain we made the hairpin turn onto the Coney Flats trail and started climbing out of the river valley. It was a steep uphill rocky climb. Towards the top it leveled out and we reached the Coney Creek crossing and our lunch stop. As soon as we got our lunch out another large group of Jeeps joined us. All during lunch we watched the other

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group crossing the creek to see who could make the largest waves. In the Mountaineer group, the only one that was really prepared for the water fun was young Mr. Venrick as he was in his swimming suit.

After about an hour, it was our turn to cross the creek and head down the south end of the trail towards



civilization. The way down was very rocky and had a lot of standing water puddles. At the end of the trail is Beaver Reservoir where we all stopped on the cement spillway to air up and prepare for the trip home. On the way back to Lyons, we checked to see if our guest with the Jeep that wouldn't start had gotten back to his trailer (he had). It was another fun filled day of wheeling with the Mountaineer family.

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In Memory of

Gene Kapperman & Brandon Kapperman

On July 24th 2014, the Mountaineer family lost two of our club members, Gene and Brandon Kapperman. Our thoughts, prayers and hearts go out to all the Kapperman families and friends of which there are so many.

Gene and Sharon (unit #6) joined the Mountaineers 30 years ago and soon were very active in most all of the club functions. The campouts were always memorable especially around the campfires at night. There was a never ending supply of homemade schnapps at every campfire. Gene, with the help of Ron built and drove on the trail, the iconic "Binford 3500". Gene and Sharon hosted several Halloween parties at their home and always came up with the most creative costumes.

Editor's Note

Just a reminder, I could use some Member's Rides, Email the info and a picture to newsletter@montaineers4x4.org

If you take pictures on our club trips and want to share them, please upload them on our Facebook page. (I can use them in the newsletter)

Gene, with his sly smile, would make comments about having to haul all the rocks that Sharon picked up for her rock garden, but he gladly did it. Now that's true love. Gene, you will be missed!

Brandon was born the same year that his parents, Kelly and Ron, joined the club. Naturally, Brandon was brought up in the back seat of a Jeep, either Ron's or Grandpa Genes. As soon as he could, he joined the Mountaineers in his own rite. This was the first time that we had three generations in one family as individual Mountaineer members. We remember one time while Brandon was on a club trip when a wheel came off the jeep. To Brandon's amazement, he saw that wheel and tire pass him up, run through a borrow pit, up a little hill, jump over a barbed wire fence and run off into the forest. It took a while but Brandon finally found the wheel and took a lug nut off every other wheel so he would be able to make it back to town. Brandon, you also will be missed by the Mountaineer family.

Superheroes Still Keep Watch Continued

Passing Livermore and The Forks Restaurant (an establishment that refuses to die), we slow to make a left turn at Cherokee Park Road. Our heading is two-seven-zero now. Due west. Asphalt gives way to wash boarded gravel, but inside I am smiling because I know out there somewhere the arms of the mountains welcome me once again. There are no more amber sodium vapor lights to show the way. I see dark silhouettes of hills out the windows, and occasionally an outbuilding gets a glancing blow from the headlights. It is so dark. We weave and dart our way up a winding hilly road while a map of the terrain rolls through my mind. I have been down this road before in the daylight, when the gray-brown tone of the road is bland, and the grasses and leaning fences seem harmless. Lose the light, and you lose the routine. Darkness invites mystery and danger. These are the hours when Poe writes of Death. When Steinbeck's seas roughen to sink ships. When Hunter Thompson shoots up with morphine to spill his soul out of the pen.

I have driven for twelve or fifteen miles now and the landmarks passing nearby in the dark are unfamiliar. I am lost, but not concerned. I long to keep driving, but I know my wife and children will not last forever. I heave the rudder hard over and we turn around at the junction with Gun Flint Road. I had been looking for one of the state wildlife areas, but it must have

swept by in the dark while I daydreamed. Picking up speed again, the sides of the road stream past, brown swaths of the visible that then disappear into the ink of the night. There is no one to be blinded, and I have engaged my dual battery system and lit all the lights on the Jeep, a brilliant firefly flitting through the hills. For a few more minutes I drive until I find a wide open spot in the road with a meadow disappearing into the darkness to the south. The Jeep drifts to the side and rolls to a halt. Clicks of switches in the dark of the cab as the lights go out. Engine stop. We're here and here is nowhere.

The crunch of the human foot on the good earth is poetry and prayer. My wife mutters quietly to my daughter as the car seat is unbuckled. It's 11:30. We break out the orange hunting coats to ward off a bit of chill brought with the breeze. The dark is everywhere. As the exhaust ticks in the silence, my eyes are drawn to the only source of light for miles. Above me, a million stars sparkle and shine like diamonds cast out on a black silk cloth. In the middle of the sky, the Milky Way galaxy flows in a great ribbon. There needs to be a cat up there, I muse. A cat to lap up the spilt milk. To the north the Big Dipper leans at a crazy angle, as if some cook had left it leaning on the counter while in a hurry to check an oven full of bread.

End of Part 2

| August 2014 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | | 1 K&D Kinnison A&M Eddy | 2 Judy Paul B&M Kemp |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 M&L Castell | 7 | 8 B&J Marquardt | 9 |
| 10 | 11 BOARD MEETING Cliff Dukes | 12 | 13 D&C Stengaard | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 J&S Mueller | 19 Greg Meyers | 20 CLUB MEETING | 21 Cody Kinnison | 22 Liam Riley | 23 Milly Smelker |
| 24 CLUB TRIP 31 24 Kim Schleppey | 25 Brian Graves B&K Schleppey | 26 | 27 Katie Schrader | 28 John Schrader | 29 | 30 |

| September 2014 | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Cotton Riley | 8 BOARD MEETING Jim Bridge | 9 | 10 | 11 Brett Newton | 12 Cameron Klein | 13 Jennifer Meyers |
| 14 Cory Kinnison | 15 | 16 Alex Stone Eric Treece C&M Smelker | 17 CLUB MEETING | 18 | 19 | 20 Skylar Payton |
| 21 CLUB TRIP | 22 Heidi Crue | 23 Austin Eddy | 24 Nathaniel DeWitt Troy White | 25 | 26 R&K Kapperman | 27 |
| 28 D&S Oden | 29 Bev Klein | 30 | 31 | | | |

Board Meeting: Sep. 8 7:30pm Jim Bridge
 Oct. 6 7:30pm Justin Treece
 Membership Meeting: Aug. 20 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Sep. 17 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Club Trip: Aug. 24 9:30am **King Soopers Parking Lot N. College & Willox**

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