

# Mountain - Ears

## January Trip Report

On this fine crisp Sunday morning, the usual suspects and a couple of guests started to gather at the meeting place for a trip to the Greer and Ballard roads up the Buckhorn Canyon. A small crowd gathered around the Opdyke's TTV when Bob got out his high lift jack to check for a broken axle. It was determined that the axle was good and the attention turned to the u-joints. By the time it was time to leave for the trip, Bob was just starting to change a u-joint and told the group to go on and that he would catch up soon. Darwin and Colleen stayed

with him to offer assistance. We all followed Corvette Dave, with Coyote John riding shotgun, up to Masonville to pick up the Southern contingent and then on up the Buckhorn to the trails. We stopped for a couple of minutes to air down and lock



in our hubs. We followed Dave to the Greer Trail and drove it a mile and a half to

## LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

---

the private land owners' gate. By this time, Darwin had caught up with us and reported that Bob still had the vibration and decided to return home to figure out the problem. It took a while to get 14 vehicles turned around at the gate and headed back to the Ballard Road. Now Dave and John weren't in the lead and the snow got a lot deeper. There were people getting sucked into the gummy weeds right and left even before we got off the good part of the road.

By the time we got into the meadow, three or four vehicles were stuck in the big snow drifts. Somehow, Corvette Dave and Coyote John were able to maneuver their FJ-40 around the stuck ones into the meadow. Dave missed the left turn and went straight and got stuck himself.

We saw that the trail was blocked by four or five big blow down aspens. John got out and started to look around for a way to winch them out. Dave was able to get the cruiser going forward again, leaving John in a cloud of



snow. Dave thought that there was a road to the end of the meadow and nailed it. He



## LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

---

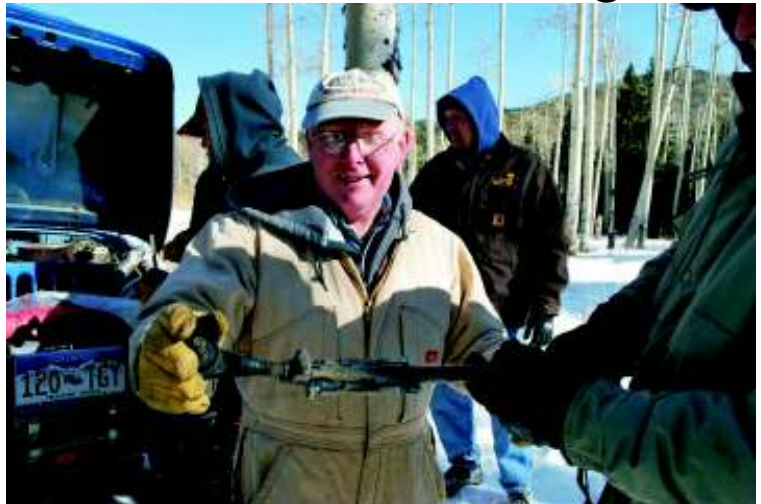
was bouncing over logs and stumps and finally realized that this wasn't the road. By now he was in a real pickle and tried to turn around.

Then it happened, he had no steering. A quick look see and he found the problem, his drag link had snapped off. He walked the broken drag link up to the rest of us for a show and tell. The discussion was should we go back to town for parts or try to weld it back together. We all had read in the magazines about such trail repairs but were worried about a trail weld holding. A couple in our group had done it before, so it was decided we would try the welding. We came up with a couple of batteries, jumper cables, a welding rod and even a pair of welding goggles. Two batteries weren't strong enough, so we

added a third. Dan Venrick welded it back together and



Even welded a couple of 6 inch bolts to it for added strength.



Dave installed the repaired drag link and winched himself back up the hill to the group. We had one spectator throughout this whole ordeal. A man named Mark walked out of the forest to see what was going

## LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

on. Seems that he owns the land next to the meadow and



has a cabin that he lives in year around. (no running water or electricity). Mark was amazed at the resourcefulness of the Mountaineers. He can't wait to try some car battery welding himself. He was a very interesting guy to talk to. It took some strapping and winching to get everyone turned around and headed back out.

It was an adventures day that the Mountaineers in attendance will not forget. I can see that in 25 years, grand

pappy with grand son on his lap will be telling a story about, back in 2000 twelve, being stuck in snowdrifts and having to weld parts together with just car batteries. You know, back in the day when we used to be allowed to drive through the forest on dirt and snow covered roads without paying a fee or having a permit.

El Guapo



# January Club Trip

**Sunday, February 19th**

Our Club Trip this month will be to Lost Lake or Cherokee Park. Please meet at our regular trip meeting place North Albertsons College & Willox at 9:00am February 19th.

---

## Dues are Due

Time to pay the \$45.00 club dues.

This amount not only keeps you current with the Mountaineers, but \$30.00 of it goes to the Colorado Association and the United Association to keep you in good standing with them also. Cash and checks accepted (correct change appreciated). If the dues are not paid by the March meeting, you will be dropped from all three rosters.



## Trail Information

We have found a web site that describes the majority of the popular 4WD trails in Colorado. It is a very well done site and has lots of info. If you would like to check out some of the trails that we will be going to in July, take a look. Some of those trails will be Chinaman Gulch-Carnage Canyon, Mt. Princeton, Mt. Antero, Iron Chest, Tincup Pass and Hancock Pass. It has trails in our area too. [www.traildamage.com](http://www.traildamage.com)

Of course we can't forget about all the good info in Charles Wells Guide to Colorado Backroads & 4-Wheel Drive Trails book which is available in all the 4WD shops.



# Our Annual Summer Club Outing

This year we are going to substitute a new destination for our normal Moab Trip. We will be spending a week in Buena Vista and running the trails in the area. We will be spending the week of July 7th through 13th in Buena Vista because the altitude is higher and the trails should be open in July. The RV park is about 1.5 miles north of Buena Vista at 30430 North Highway 24 (800) 954-8481. Just like we do in Moab we will be meeting each morning at City Market in Buena Vista to leave for our trips. City Market is on the south end of town at 438 Highway 24.



# LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

---





# Member's Ride

**Name:** Dave & Sally Oden **Unit Number:** 26

**Model:** 1993 Jeep YJ

**Engine:** 4.0L High Output 6cyl

**Transmission:** 5 Speed

**Transfer Case:** NP231 4:1 kit and slip-yoke eliminator

**Front end:** 3.55 open Dif

**Rear end:** 3.55 with ARB Locker

**Wheels & Tires:** Allum. Mod's w/ 32X11.50 R15 BFG Mud

**Springs & Shocks:** Rancho 2 1/2" lift, Rancho 5000 Shocks, 3/4" shackle lift

**Body Lift:** 2" Proformance Accesories

**Brakes:** Stock

**Miscellaneous:** Custom front & rear bumpers, Custom rocksliders & side steps, Ramsey 8000lb winch



February 2012						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Chris Mercer	2	3	4
5	6 BOARD MEETING <i>Colleen Stengaard</i>	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentines  A&A Burch	15 CLUB MEETING  Cara Thoen	16  Nicholas Kemp Michelle Opydke	17	18
19 CLUB TRIP	20	21	22 Chris Kappeman	23	24	25 Colleen Stengaard
26	27	28 Gene Kappeman	29 Judy Heiderscheidt			

March 2012						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Patrick Burch	3 Brandon Kappeman John Arnold
4 Paul Dangler Jeff Paben	5 Tasha Opydke	6	7	8	9	10 Kent Schmidt Rosemary McCurry
11 Travis Golly	12 BOARD MEETING <i>Mike Castell</i>	13	14	15 Darren Finger	16 Janice Marolf	17
18	19 Kelly Kappeman	20	21 CLUB MEETING	22 Lindsay Weegans	23	24
25 CLUB TRIP Nate Adams	26 Lory Golly	27 Sheila Mueller	28 Todd McCurry  T&R McCurry	29	30 Craig Stumbough	31

Board Meeting: Mar. 12 7:30pm Mike Castell  
Apr. 9 7:30pm Craig Stumbough  
Membership Meeting: Feb. 15 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
Mar. 21 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins  
Club Trip: **Feb. 19 9:00am Albertson's Parking Lot N. College & Willox**



**Larimer County 4WD Club, Inc.**  
**The Mountaineers**  
**PO Box 1225**  
**Fort Collins, CO 80522-1225**

## *February Newsletter*

**treadlightly!**  
LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



The following businesses give Mountaineer Members special discounts on parts or specific services. In other words, they save us money... and we are grateful.

<p><b>4X4 Used Parts / 4X4 Off Road</b>            938 West Willox Lane, Ft. Collins            970-224-1133 <a href="http://www.4x4usedparts.com">www.4x4usedparts.com</a></p>	<p><b>NAPA Auto Parts Ft. Collins</b>            316 S. Link Ln.            Ft. Collins, Colorado</p>	<p><b>CarQuest Auto Parts</b>            2716 South College Avenue            Ft. Collins, Colorado 970-226-5050</p>
<p><b>Bullhide Liner 4X4 &amp; Auto Accessories</b>            5817 South College Ave.            Ft. Collins, Colorado 970-224-2288</p>	<p><b>Always A Deal Inc.</b>            Computer Services            Johnstown, Colorado 970-310-7547  <a href="http://www.AlwaysaDeal.info">www.AlwaysaDeal.info</a></p>	<p><b>Moab 4x4 Outpost</b>            1831 S Hwy 191            Moab, Utah 435-259-0911</p>
<p><b>Horsepower Auto Brokers, LLC</b>            417 N US HWY 287, Ft. Collins            970-482-2579 <a href="http://www.horsepowerauto.com">www.horsepowerauto.com</a></p>	<p><b>CDR Communications, LLC</b>  <b>Cabling Done Right</b>            Call Don Maresh @ 970-556-7276            don-cdr@live.com  <a href="http://www.cablingdoneright.com">www.cablingdoneright.com</a></p>	<p><b>RockStomper</b>            P.O. Box 724            Firestone, Colorado 303-833-1431</p>
<p><b>Fry's Auto Care</b>            210 Commerce Dr.            Ft. Collins 970-310-7195</p>	<p><b>Wellington Toy Storage</b>            4000 Washington Ave. Wellington,            Colorado 970-498-2111  <a href="http://www.wellingtontoystorage.com">www.wellingtontoystorage.com</a></p>	