
MOUNTAIN-EARS

LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

September Club Trip

This Month our Club will be doing two trips. One to Moody Hill/Seven Mile and the other to Spring Creek.

Please meet at the North King Soopers Wilox and North College. We will leave at 9:00am Sunday September 21st for the Moody Hill/Seven Mile trip.

Please meet at Downieville (Exit 234 on I-70). We will leave at 10am Sunday September 21st.



August Trip Report

Mountaineers and guests started to arrive at the North College King Soopers parking lot at around 8:15 on a beautiful Sunday morning for a trip up the Bald Mountain trail. By 9:00 o'clock we counted 26 vehicles lined up, rearing to get to the trailhead and do some fun 4-wheeling. At the trailhead

Guests at Last Meeting

Holland Hibbitt

Kirk Sarrett

Dan Prichard

Mike Rivard

Steven Groves

New Member

Robin Noehl #90

we aired down, disconnected the sway bar and locked in the hubs. While all



this hub-bub was going on, our club president decided he wanted to get a picture or two of the big group --- from above. From the back seat of his Jeep, he pulled out his red and white New Horizon 350QX quad copter. He put the Go-pro camera in the gimbal and set the copter up for launch. After giving the copter time to locate the



satellites and lock in the GPS, the quad copter lifted straight up and gained altitude rapidly drawing everybody's attention. The flight proved to be short lived as a gust of wind blew the copter sideways into a pine tree. The camera and the copter

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fell to the ground and seemed to sustain only minor damage. The god of wind (Aeolus) and a pine tree won the first battle of this day.

The first part of the trail is easy as it goes through a few clear cut areas. As we got into the rocks, it became a lot of fun picking the easy or hard line and avoiding rubbing up against some close trees. There were even a couple of trees that had fallen across the trail which gave us very little room to go under them without scraping the top of our vehicle. About half way into the trail we had to stop as Evan (Salsa King) had a flat tire on his Toyota. It didn't take

long to change the tire and soon we were on our way again. We



had only gone a short distance before we were stopped again. This time it was

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because guest Kirks' Chevy pickup had quit running. When we got it started again, we heard a terrible metal on metal sound and the sound got worse and worse each time it moved. It sounded like the automatic transmission was eating itself alive!

As we could not fix the problem on the trail, all we could do was to tow it.



Another guest, Justin, in his Texas tough Jeep TJ volunteered to try and tow the crippled Chevy to the top of the trail. It took some doing to get the Chevy over the obstacles but Justin made it all the way to the top with Kirk in tow. Due to high winds, we stopped in the trees to have our late lunch break. After lunch, Jim D. hooked up a tow strap to the back of the crippled pickup so that he could act as the brakes for the trip

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down the mountain and all the way into Red Feathers. With Justin still attached to the front of the pickup we went down Road 500 through the Kilpecker Burn to the Deadman Road. At the lower gate we stopped to air up our tires before continuing to the Pot Belly where Kirk left his truck until he could come back with a trailer.

We all had another good day of wheeling (except maybe Kirk) with the Mountaineer family.

El Guapo



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Superheroes Still Keep Watch Continued

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. I see Polaris above it, and farther to the east Jupiter and Venus are rising. Where is the moon? Not up yet, and so Armstrong and Aldrin's dusty trails are

Editor's Note

Just a reminder, I could use some Member's Rides, Email the info and a picture to newsletter@montainees4x4.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)

safe from prying eyes.

Our eyes adjust and we teach Kivrin, my daughter, about the stars and the planets as we point up at the sky. Ian, my son, is fast asleep inside the cab. Small talk only lasts a few minutes before we are rewarded with a bright streak through the sky. "There goes one!" I call out. In a few minutes another, in a different direction, passes overhead. Then another. Soon we lose count. We see a satellite whiz overhead, a faint imitation of the beauty surrounding us, and yet an essential part of Man's own artificial galaxy that he has thrown up into the air around his world. I wonder about the men on the space station and I have visions of classic sci-fi stories that play out in my imagination.

While my wife and daughter huddle near the back tire, I lean against the front bumper. All eyes look heavenward. I see it first. To the northeast a great orange glow begins, lengthening into a fiery ribbon with a fireball at its head. "Look at that

one!" This is a good one. It arcs across the sky, hurtling westward. Piercing the heart of the Big Dipper like an arrow, we watch it until long seconds later it fades into the same horizon that consumes sunsets. The bright line of a ghost image dances across the dark hills, a luminous echo inside my eyes. Oohs and ahhs ensue and I ask my little girl if she made a wish. She says she did but she can't tell me. It's okay, I say.

The Irish Avenger, soothed and solaced, stands in the lonely darkness with his family. He possesses no secret laboratory. He lacks a genius intellect created by an accident with radiation. He knows, though, like philosophers and astrophysicists, that the universe has something to teach all of us. It is our choice whether we should feel small, or whether we should feel great. This evening, I feel great. Not great in that soccer-mom, gung-ho, eat your vegetables and drink your soy kind of great. Rather, that a greatness exists in me and in all of us. Even atheists can wonder at the machinations of the universe and be driven to weep.

Talons of the night's chill have taken hold in earnest, and it is time to go. We secure our landing party, close the hatch, and begin a countdown to launch once again. At the touch of a switch, great fires ignite and we are on our way. The bright stars and the Milky Way disappear as my eyes adjust to the incandescent pool of light thrown onto the road by the Jeep. I

know they are still there, far above me, and so in my heart I celebrate a little. The Jeep flies down the road as I keep careful watch for leaping deer.

At the highway, a last squirt of gravel from the tires issues a benediction to the night's activities. Quiet has set in as my hardy crew slumber at their stations. I man the helm with a steady hand and guide my trusty mechanical steed towards a home port. The familiar landmarks of The Forks and Ted's Place come into view, buoys of civilization. In this hour, on this day, we have dared to venture into the darkness, and we have returned safely to Earth. Home may be in the city, but I am already dreaming of the next voyage. The last neighborhood streets unwind before us and I imagine a quiet superhero, Celtic of background, hunched with his arms over his knees. He keeps watch, brooding and waiting, on a ridge overlooking the city. There are no magic potions, no universal elixirs for human hurts, but who needs those when we have the stars and the wild lands?

Easy, now. All engines answer ahead slow as I maneuver into the safe harbor of the garage. Doors shut quietly. Lights go out. Sleepy children pad downstairs to bed. The Irish Avenger doffs his gear; a t-shirt and cargo shorts laden with keys and wallet hit the floor. Soft sheets envelope warm bodies and we drift to sleep while a vertigo of dark roads and galactic clockwork dances in dreaming minds. I cannot wait for breakfast.

The Irish Avenger is the online persona of stay-at-home dad and free lance writer Chris Nugent.

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

October 2014						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 CJ Stone	2 Mike Golly	3 Marti <u>Helgeson</u>	4 Clifton DeWitt
5 Patrick Riley	6 BOARD MEETING <i>Justin Treece</i> <u>Elang Albrandt</u> Sarah Paul	7	8	9	10	11
12 Gary <u>Helgeson</u> J&L Schrader	13	14 Alice <u>Kinnison</u>	15 CLUB MEETING	16	17	18
19 CLUB TRIP Dustin <u>Raben</u>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Melony Dixon	27	28 Mike Castell Layla <u>Marooney</u>	29	30	31 J&L Marooney	

Board Meeting: Oct. 6 7:30pm Justin Treece
 Nov. 10 7:30pm Michelle Opdyke
 Membership Meeting: Sep. 17 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Oct. 15 7:30pm Knights of Columbus, 121 N. Meldrum, Ft. Collins
 Club Trip: Sep. 21 9:00am **King Soopers Parking Lot N. College & Willox
 Downieville (Exit 234 on I-70) 10:00am**

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