

Cruisin' Colorado

Located in the Heart of Pikes Peak Country

www.ColoradoLandCruisers.org

Colorado Land Cruisers is a four-wheel drive club based out of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and sanctioned by [Toyota Land Cruisers Association](#).

We are organized to bring together Toyota owning families and individuals interested in exploring Colorado four-wheel drive trails.

Volume X Issue XII

December 13, 2009

Edited and Published by Darryl Price

President's Corner ~ December 2009

This has been another great year with many good runs. We had some good camping trips. Almost everyone has been able to add things to your Christmas list that you need for your truck. It will be hard for some to sleep as visions of Hi Lifts and tree savers dance through your heads.

We have a pretty home for meetings now. Liberty Toyota moved to their new facility and invited us to move with them. Our meeting place is larger and quieter and the part that some like the best is there are vending machines so you could buy dinner and eat during the meeting. If you closed your eyes you might pretend that it was a catered dinner.

Some new members joined us this year and some old friends faded away. Overall I believe the number of members has been trending upwards. That means more new faces to renew the fun of running trails that we know well and are old friends.

Now we are in the middle of the Holiday season and getting our Christmas trees and houses decorated. That means that we took regular runs along Rampart road to assist the Forest Service. We pulled out some trucks and met a young man who was looking to get stuck and we helped him out twice. We have made a couple of new friends from Rising Sun that made the trek down to help us out. The feedback from them is very positive and I expect that we will see more as time goes by.

We have the end of the year / Holiday / Christmas party scheduled for Tuesday the 15th of December. We are trying a new place, Firehouse BBQ on 817 W. Colorado Ave. Please plan on bringing your

family along. They are as much a part of the club as you are. They may not come out on as many runs as you do but their support behind the scenes is appreciated.

Thanks for another great year

David Molter, President - CLC

Next CLC Meeting ~ Dec 15, 2009 6:30PM

Please come to the December Meeting/Party to be held on Tuesday December 15th at Firehouse Southern Style BBQ, 817 West Colorado Ave. Colorado Springs. The Room is open at 6:30, Party starts when you get here. It sounds as if "Order off the menu" is the preferred format for this Restaurant. Bring yourself, your spouse, your girlfriend, your kids, your friends for a good time and good eats.

Gifts for the Party...

While this item was discussed at the last meeting, consensus was never reached on whether it should be a gag or a nice gift. So in discussing it with our noble leader, we decided it needs to be as it always has been. And that is it can be a gag gift or a serious gift. Gals can bring gal gifts, marked as such and guys can bring guy gifts, marks as such. If it can work for either gender, than mark it as for either. Remember if you bring a gift, you can participate in the gift exchange, which will include a chance that you will get swapped out of that fancy gift you got. Sometimes the gag gifts are quite popular too, and you'll get swapped out from under what you thought was yours. What everyone did remember was that you should spend no more than \$10 on a gift.

Report of the Christmas Tree cutting weekends



Nobel Leader's rig, chained up and ready to go.



Chuck has just finished getting his new, cut down, chains installed, and is ready to go.

Saturday, Dec 5th

Lots and lots of people out cutting trees! We ended up pulling a couple of rigs out of 327. David M. pulled an Avalanche out first and I led him back up to Rampart Range Road while David M. started pulling a Chrysler Alpine that had a 16' trailer. By the time I made it back down to where they were David was pulling the Alpine and the trailer backwards and up a side road to allow him to get turned around. The trailer ended up a little off the road so I pulled it sideways to get it back on track and David finished pulling the trailing and the Alpine up the side road so the he could get turned around and we I lead him back up to Rampart Range Road. Yes, He put chains on the front before he went

down 327. He had them tight with rubbers. The street tires still slipped a lot inside the chains. He was trying to back the trailer through a foot of snow up a hill, the ruts kept him going straight so he couldn't swing the trailer off the main road. It was all he could do to move the truck much less negotiate the trailer. Chip Bennett got a good laugh at how the guy thought he could maneuver the trailer.

We went down 351 and had a good run. On the way back we passed a White '93 FJ80. I started the "Here's the card and who we are" spiel. His wife was jazzed about the club.

When I got home there was a new voicemail from the guy (Paul). He had alarm problems 10 min. after he saw us, couldn't start the truck. He left the truck overnight and will pick up tomorrow.

Sunday wrap up from the middle patrol:

Dec 6th

The day was chilly and a little blowing slow in the air but not too bad. Traffic was light since I think that most people were scared off by the weatherman. We went up 300 to 322 and followed 322 to the end - boring but beautiful. Next was 323 now it was starting to get interesting. The Rangers had asked us to "improve the track and widen the turnouts and corners. That means lots of churning up snow along side the normal track and plowing through corners to make the track wider. We finished that loop by coming out 324 to 300. We stopped and had a little lunch. The plan was to go to 323 and do another loop. After we had traveled 1/2 mile south on 300, a lady flagged me down and asked what she should do with the two dogs that she had found. Yes, they were the dogs that got lost the night before. The dogs were hungry and thirsty a little bit of ice packed in their paws, but in pretty good shape. We put the dogs in the back seat of the red/white FJ55 (thanks Dave). We called Pete with the news and set up a meet with the owners who were still cruising around looking for their pets. We didn't have long to wait until the tearful owners showed up. The owners asked about the people that found the dogs so we lead them back up Rampart to meet the finders. Good job people, we made a big difference with them. We resumed our loop of 323 just having to "improve them curve swings". The FS radio called us and reported a stuck car in the quarry off 324. We were only 1/2 mile away. A young guy was out doing donuts in the 6" snow and having fun. He ventured into the 12" snow

and got stuck. We hooked up and gave him a 30 foot pull back to 6" snow. We put away the gear and chatted with the Ranger. Off we went to continue our loop by going down 324A and out 325. When we got to 325 we headed down to Saylor Park following tracks. The tracks went past Saylor Park so we just followed along. 150 feet from the turnaround we found the same guy that we had just pulled out, stuck again in 16" deep snow. This guy is looking to get stuck. Jeff hooked up and pulled the guy to Saylor Park. We headed out and down 300, took off chains and called it a day.

The second weekend wrap up.

Dec 12th

Saturday we had 8 people show up and ready to patrol. We broke into two groups with the group that had to leave early patrolling the South end. The weather was clear and warm. The North group (Molter, Hawkins, Grivey) headed up road 300 and had to make a short trip through roads 325, 324 and 325 to verify the quality of the snow drifts. The group turned North and found a perfectly boring ride to the intersection of 300 and 327. The longing looks of the group as they peered down 327 was all that was necessary to realize that we had to go down this road. We started following new tracks through the 6" snow and then watched as it got to be 18" with lots of ruts to make piloting the old 'Cruiser challenging. We got down the road about a mile and half when the decision to turn back was made. Suddenly three trucks are heading my way and I don't think I can back up far enough to get to a turnout. It happened to be Justin and his friends. Now where to make this turn happen. I went another 100 ft. and then found a "wide spot" My turn sent me way up the hill to make enough width to get the truck turned around. After a couple of dozen points in my turn and a little bit of shoveling I was headed out. I spent most of my time sliding sideways as the truck was looking for that all important bit of traction. I was at a point that I was only able to move the same 6 feet over and over. There was a Heep stuck and breaking out the shovels. That is my hint to put on front chains. That made the difference and what a difference it was. We came blasting through and flinging snow all over on the way out. Next we went down 351 to see how things were going. We saw a couple of trucks with trailers that had driven in from 300 and were going out Rainbow falls. My family then saw the perfect

tree. Don and Sam went up 347C and then 348 and back to 351. Meanwhile we saw another perfect tree and then another, oh ya, there is the perfect tree, then back to the first one. We filled our tree permit and now had 14 foot of tree bobbing along on the roof. The rest of the day was spent heading out 300. At the sledding hill Jeff had a story of hooking to a truck that he didn't pull and helping out a truck that he didn't hook to????? I am not going to figure that one out. The people did give a \$40.00 donation though and that was very nice.

Sunday, Dec 13th, I pulled into the Western gas station and needed a jump start. Wow, talk about embarrassing. David Hayes jumped my battery and got me to the auto parts store where I put in a new alternator. I was so late I missed the briefing and didn't know who was going where. I missed the regular group so I drove 314, 315, 320 roads. I headed up towards 327 because I left a muffler in the deep snow on Saturday. I made it to the 327 intersection but noticed that I was losing coolant from the over flow. I turned around and made the 323, 324, loop. During that time I followed a mini van with chains that was having some issues. I know that it is like a vulture circling, but oh well. Along 300 we saw a minivan that was stuck on a side road. We gathered forces and got him out onto 300.

That wrapped up a very successful Christmas tree cutting weekends.

Thank you to all that helped.

David M

January 1, 2010 ~ Liberty

The trip schedule is saying, Don, nanuk, is planning to go on this one. Check with IH8MUD for further updates as we get closer.

January 23, 2010 Schubarth Road

Come have some fun in the snow!

Meet your new Cruisin' Colorado Editor!

Hello, I am Don Hawkins, your soon to be new newsletter editor for Cruisin' Colorado. I want to thank Darryl for doing it as long as he has as well as all the other things he has done for our club. I have been with the Colorado Landcruisers since before day one. The Army did all it could to keep me away

a few times, but I kept coming back. I loved the look of the 40 series since I saw it for the first time back in the 70's. In the 1980s while in high school in Wyoming I actually rode in my first Landcruiser and was hooked. I have worked on all things mechanical since my Father gave me my first set of real tools at around the age of 4.

I purchased my first Landcruiser, a stock '74 FJ40 in 1995. It is still sitting out in the garage as one of my many projects. My "main" two Cruisers now are my '93 80 and the '75 FJ40 I have been beating on for years. Also have a few other "projects" still lingering around the Penrose area I need to go get before some of you find them sitting in a field.

We have been in Colorado on and off since 1993. My first attempt at 4 wheeling then was with an '84 S-10 which if any of you have ever had, you'll know is the reason I had to get "into" Landcruisers. Mike Taylor is more responsible than anyone else for me getting that first Cruiser. We will just say back when Mike drove a tow-truck, he got to know my S-10 and another truck I got stuck trying to get the S-10 out as well! That is also where my nickname Nanuk came from after the Father-in-law heard about that. Soon after during my search for the ultimate four wheel drive I purchased a 4 Wheel Drive and Sport Utility magazine with a blue FJ40 on the front that belonged to Don Robbins. It was then that I knew I would get one. I still have that magazine out in the shop.

If anyone ever has anything they want covered in Cruisin' Colorado, please let me know. If nobody gives me input, trip reports, etc. I will be forced to bore all of you with stuff like recovery techniques, project builds, and technical stuff. I would also like to submit Chapter reports to Toyota Trails from time to time, so please if you have anything interesting please send me a quick note.

Don ~ editor of Crusin' Colorado

Fade to Background...

And with this, I'll fade to the background, but continue to have a role in supporting CLC in any way I can. January has us returning to western Colorado where we will be getting a house cleaned out and ready to market. I hope to run 21 road in the snow too, as I think it will be fun. I will be sending Don an article from time to time for Crusin' Colorado and I want each of you to consider doing the same. This is the best way to ensure his success. I have known Don since the club started and know he will give this endeavor his best.



See ya down the trail.

Darryl ~ MountainRam