



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 VII Issue VI

June 15, 2005

Edited and Published by Jeff Shapiro

President's Ramblings

I hope everyone is planning on taking advantage of our beautiful Colorado weather this summer, seeing as how June is already half gone! I have been busy the last few months learning what it is like to be your own boss, or more likely, learning how much there is to running a business. I won't get to do as much this summer as planned but I will still make as many runs as possible. I will be leading a group down to Brighten the Sangres on Friday night. The meeting place is Loaf 'N' Jug Total at Star Ranch Road and Hwy 115 (S. Nevada Ave.) Meet at 7:00 p.m. leave at 7:30 p.m. Darryl will lead a Saturday morning group (meeting at 6:00 a.m. and leaving at 6:30 a.m.). I plan on serving up pancakes Saturday morning and after the trail clean up there is the free dinner! See ya there!

On another note, I am looking for ideas. I would like to know what people want from CLC? What kind of direction would you like to see the club move in? I haven't had much of anything to talk about at the meetings, are there topics that you would like discussed. Whatever your ideas, suggestions, you can email me at minisrule@adelphia.net or call me at 338-3384.

*"Remember we're all in this together,
I'm pullin' for ya!"*
Andy "Minisrule" Johnson
President – CLC

Next CLC Meeting

When: June 21, 2005 7:00 p.m.
Where: Liberty Toyota, North
5597 North Academy Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO

Mark your calendar for CLC's next meeting, See you there!

Next Event

What: Brighten the Sangres
Where: Sangre de Cristo Mountains outside Westcliffe, CO.
When: June 17 and 18, 2005

Volunteer work to help BLM and Forest Service with road maintenance / clean up. See Andy's column for more details on this fun trip.

Next Runs

What: Buena Vista Run
Where: Carnage BV and Chinaman Gulch
When: June 25, 2005
Meet at: Western Gas Station just east of Woodland Park at 7:00 a.m. leaving at 7:30 a.m.

Also remember to plan for the Holy Cross run on July 9 and 10. Please see the website for more information on upcoming runs and for last minute changes to runs.

Send your input for Trip Planning to CLCtrip@ColoradoLandCruisers.org

The Trusty FJ40 – Tune up Time!

by Darryl Price

Long time readers of my column on various aspects of using a vintage FJ40 for a daily ride, will remember that I have noted in the winter months when the only fuel available contains ethyl alcohol in some proportion of at least 10%. In a carburetor, in the colder weather this mixture doesn't want to vaporize quite as easily, so when the engine is cold, it is balky. This is due in some part to running a header and not having the intake manifold heated. As Spring comes and "oxygenated" fuels go away, so does the balkiness. Or at least it usually does. Not so this year. Of course, we had an unusual Spring this year, but I finally realized that maybe I needed to take a look at putting in new plugs – do a "cheep" fast

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tune up. Make 'er purr again with 6 brand new plugs – and at a buck a pop, or even less, I'll be running good for \$6 bucks and 30 minutes time. So I proceed along this path and pulled all 6 plugs to see how they look and to also do a compression check to see how the 33 year old never-been-apart metric 6 with 162K miles is doing. And of course, since I already had the plugs out, and the engine hasn't been started in several days, I proceed with the compression test on a cold engine. Not the way to do this, if you want to get a good picture of how the rings are sealing. But then as I look back, I usually have the plugs out **then** decide I should do a compression test. At least I'm consistent. The compression test came out good. Low cylinder was about 122psi, and the high was about 130psi. Very consistent with a test ran about 5 years ago – cold. So with all the plugs out and the wires all hanging there, I decided to pull the distributor cap, wires and all and do an ohm check on the pretty orange Autolite wires. Much to my surprise, the resistance measured was extremely high. Meg ohm high! Resistance wiring usually measures ~2K ohms per foot, so this simple test will tell you how the wires are doing. K ohms are good, but Meg ohms are not, so I knew I needed a new set of wires. A quick look at the inside of the cap revealed a crack, and since the connectors were made of aluminum, they were coated with aluminum oxide – a fantastic insulator. A new cap was needed. And I knew the points were good when I bought the cruiser 11 years ago and after several filings, they needed to be replaced. So, armed with my list I did a quick check on the 'net to see who had what and for how much. And off I went. I found a good set of wires, a good distributor cap with brass connectors, points and a rotor. I even went with platinum plugs, since smaller diameter electrodes fire better. I got home and put everything together, until I got to the new rotor. It didn't want to fit. It was the correct part, but closer inspection showed that some chuckle head hadn't aligned the keyway, and then tried to hammer it on. So, back on with the old rotor after cleaning it up with a fine file. The result of all this? A new cruiser! After I ran it for a week, I reset the points, making sure the dwell was correct, and then set the idle, and the cruiser runs like new again. Only guessing here – I have no idea how a new 1972 FJ40 would run. As it turned out, it wasn't exactly the "cheep" tune up I anticipated, but the result is certainly worth it. And it's a bit more economical to run too – which I like.

"If it ain't right – Fix It!"

Editor's Notebook

by Jeff Shapiro

Well, my notebook (computer that is) has not been my friend lately which why last month's newsletter—and this month's too—is a little late. Just as I was finishing the newsletter last month my computer had problems with the power-in jack. In the last three weeks the computer shop had my computer more that I did. The Powerbook has seen the shop four times in three weeks and been to the manufacturer twice. I'm really beginning to think that computers are **really** not worth the effort and time that they use up. As I talk with more and more people the more I hear people say that they really miss the "old days." You know back in the time when cashiers actually knew how to count back change for your purchase and could do it without looking at a computer screen. Oh well, times are changing, and we can always hope for a nice big power black out that lasts for a couple of days. OK, it's time to get off the soapbox.

Like Andy, I too would like to know what club members would like to see in the newsletter. It is very difficult to create something useful for members if you don't have the faintest idea what they want or need. Or to put it another way, if you don't tell me what you'd like to see, I may have to resort to getting on my soapbox and rant about this and that to fill the space. So there you have a good reason to let me know what you would like to see in the newsletter. It's that, or you have to put up with a grumpy old man's ranting. Well, maybe you don't. If my computer behaves and I have the time, I'll see about pulling in useful information from the internet or magazines, or ????

Bumper stickers I've recently seen ...

- If you can read this, i've lost my trailer
- Heart attacks ... God's revenge for eating his animal friends.
- Honk if you've never seen an Uzi fired from a car window.
- If we quit voting will they all go away?
- Horn broken... Watch for finger.
- You're just jealous because the voices are talking to me!
- All men are animals, some just make better pets.
- I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
- BEER: It's not just for breakfast anymore.

Disclaimer: If you couldn't tell, this rambling is loaded the sarcasm and my warped sense of humor.

***Please send in your tech tips, trip reports, or great stories to
NewsletterEditor@coloradolandcruisers.org.***