



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.

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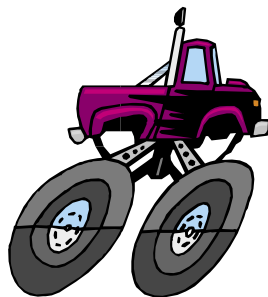
Edited and Published by Jeff Shapiro

President's Ramblings

It's amazing how time flies! July is already half over. This also means that there are a few runs coming up that I have been looking forward to! The first is Mt. Blanca. I have done this trail twice and made it to the top once. Blanca is a Beautiful trail with a wonderful clear lake at the top. It's the kind of trail that when you get there you never want to leave! Those of you who have been there probably know what I mean. The other trail is Black Bear Road, I have never run this one before. I have, however, heard stories, songs and seen many pictures of this road since I was a young kid. I've even heard, "You don't have to be crazy to drive this road...but it helps"! Anyway, if you haven't made your plans to go on a club run yet, you still have many good ones left to plan for.

*"Remember we're all in this together,
I'm pullin' for ya!"*

Andy "Minisrule" Johnson
President – CLC



Next Run

What: Marshall Pass
When: July 23, 2005
Meet at: Western Gas Station just east of Woodland Park at 6:00 a.m. leaving at 6:30 a.m.

Also remember to plan for the Blanca Peak trip on August 6th. Please see the website for more information on upcoming runs and for last minute changes to runs.

Send your ideas and comments on trip planning to CLC trip@ColoradoLandCruisers.org

Brighten the Sangres – June 18, 2005

by Kendall Carlton

This year we had a good turnout for "Brighten the Sangres". Andy, Norm and Joan, Bart and friends went down Friday night and camped at the fairgrounds. Darryl and Linda, Paul, Valerie, and kids and I came down Saturday morning. I brought along my two boys and one of their friends.

Andy, Norm, and Bart headed to Music Pass. The rest of us headed for South Colony Lake road being led by Jim from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Jim was riding his ATV and was very inspiring. Jim only has one leg, and was able to do everything that he needed to do and worked as hard as the rest of us.

South Colony Lake road is supposed to be the toughest road in the Sangre de Cristo range. It was pretty rough and long. We had to open the trail. There were a couple of downed trees across the road. We removed those, picked up trash and dispersed camp sites. At the top of the trail. There was a little snow on the ground still and we got to play a little. While we were moving a downed tree on the side of the road, the kids and adults had a snowball fight. Somehow my seat had snow in it and was wet when I got back in. We did not get back to the fairgrounds when we were supposed to. There was still enough dinner left for us though :)

After several years of attending this event, I have begun to notice that the areas that we clean up get cleaner each year. Thanks to all for your efforts and lets continue to be good stewards of our public lands.

Next CLC Meeting

When: July 19, 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!

Holy Cross – July 9, 2005

by Darryl Price

There is no trail like Holy Cross. It is rated at 5, or 10 for the other 4WDers. The trail starts out by going up a gentle hill covered with round river rocks. This was my 3rd run up the trail, and it's a good thing my memory doesn't cover just how challenging and interesting the trail is. I have since my 1st time on the trail 3 years ago considered that Holy Cross has only 3 **real** obstacles. The 1st being the rock chute, with a **real** obstacle on the left side, the 2nd, French Creek crossing, and the 3rd the rock ledges above Holy Cross city. But this isn't really true. The trail is actually one lloongg drawn out obstacle, some 3.6 miles long. A lot of trails have their most challenging obstacles while going up, but on Holy Cross, when you go down the rock chute and realize your rig seems like its almost vertical, and it takes all your remaining arm strength to hold your body off the steering wheel, you know that going down is another long obstacle.

I've gotten ahead of my self, so let me digress. Linda and I went up Thursday afternoon to get the same camp site we had last year. We were successful, but not the 1st night. We also drove up with the FJ40 packed tightly with everything, and more, needed for the planned 4 night stay. Everyone needs to go out and stuff everything into a space about 42" by 50" by 45", then crawl in front and drive to the camp site. It really is a lot of fun. I think maybe the FJ40 was designed to be used this way. When packed this way, virtually every rattle disappears! Like magic! It also makes it more fun to leave home later in the afternoon, so you can arrive at a camp site with only 30 minutes of day light left. And pull out your new apartment-sized tent, which you discover doesn't have setup instructions. (Actually it did, we found them when we were taking it down!) And a husband/wife team has a lot of fun communicating in these conditions. While the temperature was warm during setup, it quickly fell, to the point where long sleeve's and sweat shirt felt good. The overnight temperatures were down right chilly too. Perfect for camping out. The next day we drove back to the site we wanted, and found it available, so we quickly packed up and moved. We were ready for the arrival of the others we expected, that evening. The first to arrive was Kendall, and his son, Joshua, followed shortly by Andy and wife Sabra, and shortly after that David arrived along with son Travis. We had a good night, albeit chilly, but good for sleeping. Some of us were up early and some were not, but after breakfast, we set off for the trail head. On the plus side, I did remember to lock the front hubs this year – not so last year, when my trusty FJ40 got rock-

bit on the right front fender. I started out in the lead, and when navigating the 1st little ripple, I checked the ARB's to make sure they worked, and all was fine. At the next ripple, the rear locker wouldn't lock. I did find that after that it was a sometimes thing. I like to use it for insurance when negotiating ripples on the trail. At this point, David went in the lead, and I fell in ahead of Andy, and followed Kendall.

At the 1st **real** obstacle, the rock chute, David wanted to take the right side path. Andy spotted, and David skillfully piloted the large FJ80 over the rocks, using the well placed rock sliders, he was followed by Kendall and Andy. It is here that I discovered that there are 2 philosophies on negotiating a trail. One philosophy is that the obstacles are the destination. That's why you are driving the trail. And then there's my philosophy, the trail's destination is the obstacle. Getting there is the challenge. I guess it's the sum of the obstacles. I need to note, that to this point, the only vehicles we saw was a jeep along with two vintage Broncos, which were following us. When we got to French Creek, there were **no** vehicles trying to cross or waiting to cross. We have never seen this before. Since it was about 1:30 p.m., we decided to have lunch. Good lunch, but this allowed the crew following to reach French Creek ahead of us.

After lunch, we watched and were entertained by the crew as they worked to get a scrambler across. It was locked, so well locked that the driver needed to shut it off to shift from 1st to reverse. Gotta love a cable clutch! They struggled, and finally pulled cable to winch it across. You really have to watch the show at French Creek to get any understanding of this fine obstacle. Andy launched and with some struggling, he found the line and got across. David was up next, and he too found the line and made it. As Kendall, was going to get his mini-truck, he discovered that he was now #7 in line. A herd of jeep's had loped in. In watching the show, I discovered that several factors are at play. One is the preparation level of the rig. Lockers, 35's, suspension with lots of travel are all important. Driver preparation is equally important. Yahoo drivers usually aren't successful. A 3rd important factor is just plain dumb-luck. (And of course, some also have to deal with the Bud factor.) I say this because a door-less Cherokee, with a rear positract, and a semi-Yahoo driver was successful, while a locked, bead locked 35's, and skilled driver (I think) was not successful. The dumb-luck trump card plays fine at times. At this point, Kendall decided his window of opportunity had closed, so Andy and David crossed back over, and we started on the 2nd half of the Holy Cross trail: The return trip. I really mean it is a different trail going back down, and in some

cases just as challenging. We arrived back at camp, and had a great camp fire and a good dinner while we shared our thoughts about the days run with old friends. Nothing finer – except that we need to entice a few more folks to join in on the run next year. Think about it, you have a year to plan starting now. Maybe we'll do it later next year, so that there are fewer mosquitoes. Start your planning for Holy Cross 2006!

Rubber side down.



Fer' Sale!

LandCruiser tow bar (Can be mounted on any flat surface). Round tube construction. Lockable in upright position. LC stout! Includes safety chain. \$50.

Passenger side FJ40 door weatherstrip. \$15

Slightly incomplete (21 pieces) set of LC polyurethane spring bushings (new, from Alcan) \$10

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Adelaide Idiots or How not to use your LC

Two men tried to pull off the front of an ATM Cash Machine in Adelaide's Henley street by running a chain from the machine to the bumper of their Toyota Land Cruiser 4WD.

However instead of pulling off the front panel of the ATM they pulled off the bumper of their 4WD.

Scared and beginning to attract attention from the oncoming traffic, they left the scene and drove home with the chain still attached to the ATM, their bumper still attached to the chain and you guessed it, their vehicle registration plate still attached to the bumper.

And ***no*** they did not use a stolen car!!

Editorial Notes

by Jeff Shapiro

Thanks to Andy, Kendall and Darryl for getting columns and trip reports in. Their submissions made putting this newsletter together very easy. Well, that and my computer is finally behaving and I've finally gotten all my software reinstalled and configured back to the way it was 3 months ago. And people say that computers are time savers. Yeah, right!

I'm still waiting for comments and suggestions of what you'd like to see in the newsletter. (Not really surprising since everyone is out four wheeling these days.) Please let me know what type of stuff you'd like to see. Or if you're out surfing the internet and see something interesting that you think other people might like, send it my way and I'll get it in the newsletter.

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