



# Cruisin' Colorado

Located in the Heart of Pikes Peak Country

[www.ColoradoLandCruisers.org](http://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 VIII Issue II

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Edited and Published by Jeff Shapiro

## Prez Sez

Even though it's February, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope you all are getting off to a great start. I look forward to doing a lot of great wheeling with the Club this year.

Last weekend's run to China Wall was a great success, with seven rigs attending. It started out bitterly cold (as usual for the Tarryall area) but was sunny and very comfortable by mid-morning. We had lunch at a fantastic spot next to frozen Tarryall Creek, where my daughter Michelle and I hiked on the ice, and spent quite a bit of time playing on the Rockpile and other obstacles. What a fantastic trip!

Please bring your trip ideas to the meeting so that we can do some longer range planning through the spring and into the summer. Also, please think about what we want the Club to do and be this year. Our trip attendance suffered last year because of the high fuel prices, but we sensed renewed enthusiasm at January's meeting.

Your Prez,

Vic Ramsey



## The Trip Calendar (so far)

### 2/25, Saturday

**Where:** Pikes Peak Trails (3)

**Meet at:** 8:30 / 9:00 a.m. at Safeway at S. Nevada and Cheyenne Road

**Leader:** Andy – Possible snow run

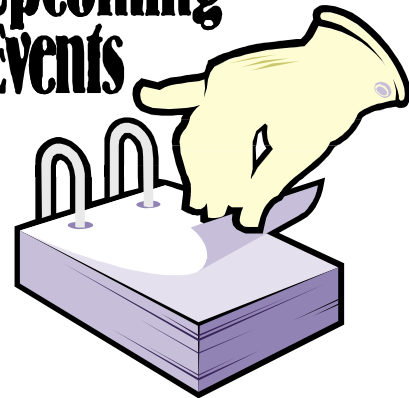
### 3/25 Saturday

**Where:** Schubarth off Rampart Range (3)

**Meet at:** 8:00 / 8:30 a.m. at Western Gas in Woodland Park.

**Leader:** Andy – Possible snow run

## Upcoming Events



## Next Run

**What:** Pikes Peak Trails

**Where:** Off Gold Camp Road

**When:** February 25, 2006

**Meet at:** 8:30 and leave at 9:00 a.m. at Safeway at S. Nevada and Cheyenne Road

### Next CLC Meeting

**When:** February 21, 2006 at 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!

Send your input for Trip Planning to [CLCtrip@ColoradoLandCruisers.org](mailto:CLCtrip@ColoradoLandCruisers.org)



### ***From the Editor's Desk(top)***

For some reason this issue is just not wanting to get put together. I've even tried getting outside input from other TLCA chapters. I discovered a couple of things: first, is most of the contact emails listed in TLCA's Chapter Listing aren't accurate. About 30% of my emails came back for one reason or another. Second, we are one of the few chapters that is doing a newsletter. It seems that most chapters are just using email for communications and not bothering with doing newsletters. I was hoping that we could exchange newsletters with other clubs (there by making my job easier when I have to hunt for articles).

In case you missed the emails or the mention in the last newsletter, we now have a discussion forum for club use on [www.ih8mud.com](http://www.ih8mud.com). The URL is: <http://forum.ih8mud.com/forumdisplay.php?f=85>. You should stop by and say, "Hi!" If you've really got time to kill you could also look around at the other discussion areas.

Actually, I kind of like the idea of the club having a email list. I never seem to remember to check discussion forums (probably because I rarely have a web browser running). We could set up a mail list for free using the Yahoo Groups (a number of 4WD and other clubs use it). Yahoo Groups also allow members to post photo or other files. Becoming a Groups member you also get a wonderful Yahoo Email account that you could use instead of using your work's email. Email lists are something that I like because if I'm at my computer, my email program is running and I don't have to remember to log on to a web site to read discussions. The major advantage of having a Yahoo Group is if people search for "Colorado 4X4" or something like that, our club's group would show up in the list. So we might pick up a few new members.

Just a couple of random thoughts for you to think about on your way to the club meeting.

## ***A Little About Safety, And Membership, Too***

by Marshall Sheperd  
Upstate Cruisers, South Carolina

Well first I just wanted to thank Alex for stepping up to the plate and taking the job. I know it's not a fun job but someone has to do it. And who better than Alex?

As I'm sure some of you who are getting this are probably wondering who I am and why do we have a membership and safety guy in the first place? A little about me: I bought my first cruiser well over twelve years ago while in college. I didn't have a clue about it but I thought it was cool at the time. I wheeled it some but mostly used it as my only transportation.

There were a lot of things I did wrong in those years to fix it but money was tight and it was up to me to fix it and most of the time I did a bad job. I also made a lot of bad decisions on being safe. If I would have known then what I know now I would have probably done things a little different. And I think this is where the safety part of my job for the club comes in.

Some members have expressed concern about the fact that I have this job and felt that my job was to tell them their vehicle had to be up to my standards before they could come on an outing. There is nothing farther from the fact. I was given this job to make sure everyone who goes on these events is safe. For instance, if someone has a weak point on there vehicle like a bad parking brake or bad brakes, period, it is my responsibility to make sure they understand what could happen, not to tell them they cannot go. Also it will be my responsibility to make sure that no one is hurt because of a vehicle or persons fault. For example, if someone is following the person with bad brakes it will be my responsibility to warn them about them and make sure they keep a safe distance from that vehicle on steep inclines as well as other instances where a vehicle rolling back or forward could hurt someone. I also will use my ability to fix most cruiser problems by helping that person in making his vehicle safe if he would like me to. Most of you know I can fix most anything and will happily do so free of charge as long as you are willing to learn how to fix the issue and pass that knowledge onto another club member in need of help. You are also welcome to call me and ask me any technical question and if I cannot answer it I'll find someone who can (864) 414-0563.

I'm also in charge of the membership side, which will hopefully be a lot easier. There are really only two aspects that I will focus on, new members and promoting our

club to our vendors. In the new member area I will hope to have something like a “big brother” system. New members will be assigned to an existing club member who has volunteered. It will be their responsibility to keep the new member or potential member up to date on club happenings and make them feel as if they are part of the group. The other aspect will be getting our vendors more involved with the club and have them help us gain new members. For example: We are printing out club business cards to give out to new dealerships in our area. In hopes that they will give them to people who buy a Land Cruiser. It's only a win-win for them. People who are part of a Land Cruiser club tend to stay within the Toyota brand when buying a new vehicle which means more return business for them and in turn they help promote our club to future members

## ***China Wall in 2006***

by Jeff Shapiro

As Vic mentioned in his column, we had a great trip at China Wall in late January. There was only a little snow on the ground, and it wasn't enough to really even notice. Well, except when snowy and wet tires tried to climb over the rock pile.

The first people didn't have a problem, but the last people spent a bit of time sliding off the top of rocks. We did have seven vehicles show up (4 trucks and 3 Land Cruisers). The guys in the trucks seemed to always have to may things harder than they had to be. Well, I didn't but then I don't have large tires, lockers, and crawler box. Plus, my truck is only two years old and it is my daily driver.

Anyway, the trip was great fun if you don't mind the extremely cold weather that we started with. Hmmm, actually we didn't end up with exactly warm weather. Unless you call 32 degrees warm. But after being out in colder weather with a strong breeze blowing all day, it did feel downright balmy.

We played around on all the usual obstacles on the way back to Tarryall Creek, where we had lunch, and also on the way back out. The hill climb has gotten quite a bit easier because someone moved rock around on the bottom. You no longer have the tight s-turn to negotiate. However, by doing that people are now digging holes because tire spin on some rocks and ledges. We even went out by going down the hill climb. The only hard part about going down the hill is getting to the top of it. You have to squeeze between a couple of big rocks, and you better trust your spotter on the right side or you leave with missing paint and bent sheet metal.

After doing all the normal stuff, Andy asked if we wouldn't mind doing some exploring on the way out. Which turned out to be a lot of fun, even if we did have to turn seven trucks around on one trail. We found one trail that looped back around to the main exit trail. This is the trail that we found the great view of Pikes Peak. Of course, it was a little confusing when we connected with the main trail. Why? Because of all the Forestry signs saying, “No Motor Vehicles Allowed.” There was one about 2 feet off the trail that we came out on.

Well, 'til the next time on the trails. Have fun, be safe.



*Pictures from the 1-28-2006 Chinawall Run*



Send your stories and newsletter submissions to:  
[NewsletterEditor@coloradolandcruisers.org](mailto:NewsletterEditor@coloradolandcruisers.org).