

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 VIII Issue V

July 10, 2006

Edited and Published by Darryl Price

President's Report ~ July 2006

Hello, everyone. As you will read in Darryl's trip report for our Brighten the Sangres excursion, it was ultra successful both in helping the Forest Service and in doing some great high altitude wheelin.' Please take note that there are no pictures of Darryl staining the picnic tables in the campground (you had to be there to understand this, so be sure to ask him about it).

We have a great trip planned for this weekend, July 15 and 16. There are many exciting trails in the St. Elmo and Alpine Loop area for us to run. We have a special treat this weekend. A group from High Desert Cruisers in New Mexico will be joining us. It will be great to get to know these folks and run some trails with them. George Morgan will be here; some of you may remember George from the Holy cross trip a couple of years ago. Check the website for times and the meeting place. I hope to see you there.

Best Regards,
Vic

Next CLC Meeting ~ July 18, 2006 7:00PM

Mark your calendar for CLC's next meeting, Liberty Toyota, North. See you there!

Need Cruiser parts?

<http://www.cruiseroutfitters.com/>
<http://www.cruiserparts.net/>

Next Run ~ Alpine Loop ~ July 15 & 16, 2006

See Vic's comments on this in his introduction.

And Next Run ~ Holy Cross ~ July 29 & 30, 2006

This is another do not miss trips. It is scheduled as an over niter, with the stay Saturday night. Excellent way to get to know the group. Please note that the jeep guys use a 1 to 10 scale for trail difficulty, and rate Holy Cross at an 8. So guess that's a 4 for us.

Trip Report – A Tale of Two Trips (with apologies to Charles Dickens)

Trip #1, Schubarth Road, March 2006:

Four wheeling on Schubarth Road and surrounding areas is an annual tradition for CLC. In March, we met at the Western on a cold, yet sunny day (typical Pikes Peak area winter day in the mountains). It would turn out to be warm and sunny later on (again, typical). Winter weather is our best kept secret.

David and kids, Ken and daughter, Sam, and I, with a friend who had never been four wheeling, showed up along with three of David's Jeoper friends, all nicely equipped TJs. After airing down and getting on the trail, we turned toward Stanley Canyon Reservoir. Trouble happened when one of the Jeepers smacked a tree with the left front tire. Inspection uncovered a broken sector shaft on the steering gear. We turned the Jeep around by pushing and steering by hand and the Jeepers went to town to snag replacement parts and a trailer.

We continued on with the promise to return and help when the trailer showed up. After hanging out at the reservoir for a while, we came back up the road and turned right on the usual trail we take. Sam took us to the end of that road to a turnaround with a spectacular view of the Academy and the valley. Out came the grill and we whipped up some grilled Italian sausages and sandwiches.

After lunch, Sam led us down a snowy off-camber stretch to his super secret valley where there are some old ruins of cabins and storage facilities in a shallow cave. We explored the area on foot, then tackled the snowy stretch and eventually got back to the more traveled road. We turned down the gnarly road with the rock crawling section, but it was covered over with logs and stuff, so we decided to return to the site of the Jeep incident. My guest and I had to return to town, but I understand the others in our group were able to help with a successful extraction of the TJ.

Trip #2, Chinamen's Gulch, April, 2006:

Ah, yes, what would Chinamen's Gulch be without the smells of burning clutches wafting down the trail from the TJs in front of us? Fortunately there was no permanent damage and we got to know the culprits later (more on this later).

Chinamen's was in good form this trip, with a large contingent of 'wheelers traveling it. In attendance from our group were Ken and daughter, Brent Mott and boys, and me, along with passenger Gary C. With such a crowd on the trail, we took an extremely leisurely lunch and shot 22s for awhile.

Anyway, all of the obstacles were in prime form and we thoroughly enjoyed playing on them in our leisurely way (since there was the LARGE group in front of us). We met a couple of soldiers from Ft. Carson (they of the smelly clutch syndrome) and hung with them on several obstacles. It was great fun as one of them had a lift kit without spring retainers. The left front spring kept coming out, so we figured out how to position the TJ in a crossed-up mode so that the spring could be reinserted without having to use the Hi-Lift. They were attempting to run the trail in 2WD (hence the smelly clutch), but finally had to use 4WD low-range at Whale Rock. It was great fun and we felt like we made some new friends. They were recently back from Iraq; we wished them the best.

Vic

Your input for Trip Planning

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Trip Report ~ Brighten the Sangres ~ 6/17/06

Each year as we go down to Westcliffe to help clean trails in the San Isabel forest, I remember the previous years trips and wonder how this year will stack up with the previous 9 years we have been helping with the cleanup. This year proved to be no exception to all the previous years, in that it was fantastic. Vic, Gary and Sam left Friday evening to camp out – but there was a difference in that a fire was burning 8 miles east of Westcliffe and the area usually camped in was the fire control center. They apparently had a good night and were waiting for our arrival Saturday morning. 3 of us made the trip down Saturday morning, including David and family, Kendall and his son, and me and Linda. Since the road east of Westcliffe had been closed the evening before, we took US50 west to Texas Creek and arrived about 8:20am. We had already been assigned the Hermit Pass road, and our work director was Cliff, with the forest service. We could not have asked for a better day. After the heat we had been experiencing in the Colorado Springs area in the weeks leading up to this trip, the cool mountain air was refreshing. Our group split into 2 sections, one to clear the road and clean camp sites and the other to do the camp ground maintenance. Vic, Gary and David were the camp ground maintenance crew, while Sam, Kendall and I took the road/camp site cleanup detail. When starting out on such an expedition, with a “new” forest service regular, you can never quite be sure just how the rules will be interpreted, but, after the 1st stop to clear out a large pine tree that had fallen on the side of the road, we knew Cliff was an alright guy, and one that made it enjoyable to work with. After that we came across another downed pine beside the road, and decided to use the trusty Warn 8274 winch on my FJ40 to pull it off the road. Using a winch to do tasks like this really makes short work of jobs that took a lot of cutting and grunt hand work moving large sections of trees. We were able to use the winch twice to assist in moving trees out of the way. As noon approached, we found our way to the camp ground, where the others had been working. Much to our amazement, all the picnic tables had been stained, a nice rich brown color. It was the color that just jumps on you as you work to spread the stain. It just begs to make you the same color as the stain. And for those that did work, there was evidence of the timeless struggle of stain attacking the stainer and making him or her the same color. Curious as to why our intrepid leader, Vic, escaped having some

of the stain transfer to his hands, as he alleged to have worked doing staining. Such a messy job and such a clean person saying he had stained tables. Me thinks, maybe not he did stain tables. Me thinks, maybe it was a hasty plan to not have stained, but rather to have claimed stain. Or, "To have stained or Not to have stained, that is the question." Oh what a strain this stain has been to sustain the strain on the tale of stain. Such distain. Enough. In the afternoon, our last "official" task was to put the Hermit trail sign in book in the register at the start of the hiking trail. The register is at the top of the trail, at an elevation of some 13,000'. We were able to drive almost the summit, before being stopped by one last snow bank across the road – we went much farther than previous years, due mostly to the hot weather we experienced in eastern Colorado the previous month. Kendall, Sam and David along with his 2 young sons walked up the hill to put the register in the holder. David said his boys lead the way, as they were least affected by the altitude. Once finished, we started back down for dinner being served to the volunteers. And such a long trip over so few miles it proved to be. Its always wonderful to air down, and start up a trail in the morning, and it may be more wonderful when you get back to the gravel road in the late afternoon, where you can go 20 times as fast as were going, or all the way up to 20mph! We arrived back at the meet point, and were served a delicious Mexican dinner, complete with western music by an all girl band. Even young Conner Hayes enjoyed the music, as he started dancing to a tune the girls were singing! After eating a delicious meal, we started back to Colorado Springs. For Linda and me, when we got home a little after 9pm, it had been a 15 hour day in the FJ40 - and that truly is not for the faint of heart, or back or butt. Not sure we will do it that way next year, as it gets a little brutal after being in the saddle of a stock 1972 FJ40 for 12+ hours. For anyone that hasn't made the trip, get out your 2007 calendar and mark the Saturday before Father's day and plan on attending with us next year. You will be glad you did.

Darryl
~ keep the rubber side down