

# Cruisin' Colorado

Located in the Heart of Pikes Peak Country

[www.ColoradoLandCruisers.org](http://www.ColoradoLandCruisers.org)

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Colorado Land Cruisers is a four-wheel drive club based out of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and sanctioned by [Toyota Land Cruisers Association](http://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 Darryl Price**

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## **President's Report ~ November 2007**

Hello. I hope you will be able to participate in this Saturday's trail run to Metberry Gulch. This area was closed to four wheeling after the Hayman fire several years ago and Metberry recently re-opened. This is one of my favorite trails for a variety of reasons. It's not too hard, it's close to home, and the scenery is fantastic. After breaking out of the trees, you get a spectacular view of the Platte River canyon which lasts virtually all of the way to the bottom. There is a nice hiking trail along the river, also. I found a newsletter trip report that my daughter wrote in 2002, which is the last year this trail was open prior to the forest fire. The photos in this newsletter were taken on that trip.

CLC Metberry run 2002



Come on, Vic – let poor old Austin have a ride!  
Nobel leader descends into the Metberry basin.

In last month's newsletter, David Hayes did a write-up (David has updated this, and it's included – Ed) on the Forest Service Christmas Tree cutting schedule. We will be assisting the Forest Service on

three weekends this year, so please gear up for lots of time in the woods. If you have not done this, we help the rangers patrol the backcountry roads and offer any assistance needed. Typically, many people are under prepared and get their cars and trucks stuck in a variety of situations. We like it when there is lots of snow and we get many opportunities to winch and strap people back to terra firma. We would like to have an idea as soon as possible of how many club members and guests can participate, so please start making plans and let us know which weekends you can make it. I will send an email to as many of you as I have addresses for so please reply back so that we know which weekends and days you plan to attend. You can also let David and me know at the club meeting next week. The dates are Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, and 16. There will be a smaller than normal USFS presence and the rangers are depending on us to turn out in large numbers.

Your Prez, Vic  
439-9602

## **Christmas Tree Runs ~ 3 weekends in December**

Each December members of Colorado Land Cruisers donate their time to assist the Pikes Peak Forest Service district in their annual Christmas tree cutting event. Our role is to assist stuck motorists. When the masses adventure into the forest to find their Christmas tree, some of them drive a little further than what their vehicle (or driver) are prepared to handle. Every year there is always someone that gets stuck even if there is very little snow. On years with more snow we can get very busy. And it doesn't take much snow to get many people stuck.

The Christmas tree cutting event will be on the first three weekends in December. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> &

9<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Western gas station at 8:00 and leave by 8:15 to drive up to Rampart Range road to meet the forest service. We are usually finished up sometime between 3 pm and sun down, but we have also been there past 11 if someone is stuck. Bring warm clothes, food, tow straps and other recovery gear, and tire chains.

The Christmas tree cutting area is fairly large and it is best if we can get at least 6 rigs available for each day. The Forest Service also likes to have a list in advance of who is coming. Please try and set aside some dates in your calendar and let us know so we can make a list for the Forest Service.

David Hayes  
Hayes9272@msn.com  
481-9272

### **CLC Christmas Party – December 18, 2007**

It is starting to get a chill in the air and the holidays are starting to roar toward us. Yes, that means that it is time to get ready for the annual Christmas Party. I volunteered or was volunteered (it is now kind of hazy) to research locations for this years party. At the October meeting, the gathered masses voted to have the 2007 party at Old Chicago Pizza. The decided location is in the North West corner of Austin Bluff's and North Academy. The date will be Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. For all of you now rushing to check the calendar that is the third Tuesday in December. Yes, coincidentally that is the normal meeting night. Please don't show up at the Toyota dealer and wonder where everyone has gone. The time will be 7:00, just to keep the people that are creatures of habit happy.

Old Chicago is not just another pizza place. Besides the inferred honor of hosting the Colorado Land Cruiser club, Old Chicago is the home of some pretty good pizza, strombolis, pasta, calzones, sandwiches and even hamburgers. The manager will set up a pizza buffet if 20 or so people are interested. The buffet is \$8.95 for the basic all-you-care-to-eat and soft drinks. For one dollar more (\$9.95) you can have salad included.

Last year, we had a gift exchange that worked out pretty nice. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped gift and you are entered. Everyone that brings a gift draws a number from the hat. The person that has number one picks a gift; number two can pick a new gift or take number ones gift instead,

and so on. Gifts should be no more that \$20.00 in value.

Think back on the troubles that your fellow club members have had on the trail. At the party we will vote on the person that had the worst luck (best breakage) this year. The winner (?) will receive the "Hard Luck" present. Currently in the running is Vic, with his broken drag link ball joint, Mark with carburetor problems, Wayne with carburetor problems and a broken fuel pump, Trevor with overheating and fuel problems. Bring any other tales of woe to share with everyone.

To recap:  
CLC Christmas Party  
7:00 Tuesday, 18 December  
Old Chicago Pizza, Austin Bluffs and N. Academy.

David Molter  
Party Committee

**Next CLC Meeting ~ November 20, 2007 7:00PM**  
Mark your calendar for CLC's next meeting, Liberty Toyota, North. We will be discussing plans for the annual Christmas Tree run(s). Dec 1, 2, 8, 9 and 15, 16, as well as discuss the Christmas party David Molter has planned for CLC.

**TLCA Membership – Got yours?**  
<http://www.tlca.org/>

### **Metberry Gulch, March 2002**

Photo's provided by Vic Ramsey of the 2002 Metberry Gulch run





More pictures available on the CLC web site:  
<http://www.coloradolandcruisers.org/archived/trips/tr2000/tr03-18/tr03-18.htm>

<http://www.coloradolandcruisers.org/archived/trips/tr2001/tr03-24/tr03-24.htm>

**Next run: Metberry Gulch – November 17, 2007**  
 The more astute of you have already gathered that CLC is doing Metberry Gulch this coming Saturday. Plan on it – if you already have plans, change ‘em. This IS a big deal. Not since the Hayman fire in June 2002 have we been able to go into the Platte river gulches. We really aren’t sure what to expect. The trail is moderate in difficulty, say about a 3 or 3 and ½. This is due to a long loose granite hill just before what is now known as the “Slab”. Its also the long hill where we learned from some other 4WDers who had chains on the “traction” tires, i.e., the left front and the right rear, that that was the way to chain a 4WD with 2 chains! Also warm clothes, lunch, water, soft drinks, water for the dog, shovel, normal recovery gear – chains if you got ‘em. Meet at the Woodland Park Western, 8:30am leave 9am.

**Your story here ~ It’s easy, follow template:**

Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, FJ40 blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, and WOW, FJ40 blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, no one understood FJ40 blah, blah, blah, blah, and the jeep blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, the FJ40 just pulled him out. blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, <and so on> <and so on>  
 <NOTE: template users are free to substitute FJ45, FJ55, FJ60, FJ62, FJ70, FJ80 or minitruck>