

# Cruisin' Colorado

Located in the Heart of Pikes Peak Country

*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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**Volume IX Issue VII**

**September 11, 2006**

**Edited and Published by Darryl Price**

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## **President's Report ~ September 2006**

Although our official summer calendar months are nearly over, we still have some beautiful weather left for wheelin.' The Mosquito Pass trip this weekend is timed for prime aspen viewing as they should be in full color in the high country. I won't be able to make the trip but I'm looking forward to seeing the photographs on our web site.

This morning's terrorist attack on our embassy in Damascus, Syria is especially poignant to me as my daughter is a Marine Embassy Guard (not in Syria, but elsewhere). This is a fresh reminder for me to pray for our service people wherever they are in harm's way.

Looking forward to seeing you at next week's meeting,

Vic

## **CLC ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Decade Party ~ or 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

And a good time was had by all. Kendall and Millie provided a wonderful setting in opening their home for CLC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party/dinner. CLC provided the steaks, and Kendall cooked them to perfection. The rest of the meal was provided by those attending, potluck style. 5 couples, 4 members, a lady friend of Kendall's and Millie's, from France, and 8 kids, all joined to have a most enjoyable evening. I have to say that the lady that stole the evening was the fascinating Isabella. She was a delight as she moved about the room and enchanted everyone with her laughter. She moved about the room effortlessly, as all eyes followed her. Everyone wondered who she would stop at next to share a smile or a laugh. The very entertaining Isabella was the 15 month old daughter of Hants and

his wife, and the embodiment of a CLC family evening. After dinner, the ladies gathered in the living room to talk about ... something I'm sure. Their laughter was rather loud at times, and almost drowned out the important 'cruiser talk of the guys. The guys remained in the family room, close to the food to talk about our favorite topic: Landcruisers and minitrucks. We came early and left late, and a good time was had by all. Mark your calendars now for the 20 year celebration. August 2016.

## **Next CLC Meeting ~ September 19, 2006 7:00PM**

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

## **Trip Report ~ Marshall Pass~ Sept 2, 3 & 4, 2006**

As we prepared to leave on the afternoon of Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, the weather was forecast to be rainy in the Colorado Springs area, and when we left that afternoon, rain was starting to fall. So wouldn't you know it, by the time we reached Lake George, we could see clearing to the west. This was to be, largely, how the weather would be on Marshall Pass. We reached the pass area in plenty of time to set up camp, get the tent pitched and the coolers with food out and... Er, that was last year at Holy Cross. This year we leveled the trailer, got out the grill, cooked burgers and watched the sun set in the west over the pass. Marshall Pass is located about 6 miles South of Monarch Pass, as the crow flies. It was the location of the Rio Grande railroad, complete with round house and snow sheds in the 1880's, with the last run in mid 1952. The site was chosen because of its elevation, a relative low 10,842'. The grades of 2% to 4% meant the early steam engines had to double head going up. The edge of the meadow where we camped is in a photo of the last cattle train as it topped the pass in 1952. We had a small turn out of

the faithful. For Linda and me, it was more like a family outing, with Andy, David and his 2 sons and Dan from Teller County SAR. The area was beautiful, with the aspen trees just starting to turn golden. Saturday, after we had a quick lunch which followed a large 1<sup>st</sup> day breakfast, Dan led us on a run down to Milk Creek and up to Sergeants Mesa. The run would have been great for newbies that needed to get some low range experience, as the trail went up a lloongg rocky trail that was low range steep. No real obstacle. I did something I don't think I've ever done before, or long enough ago that I don't remember, I rode shotgun with Dan. Different perspective from the right seat. Nothing to hold onto with both hands – at least at the same time. But not entirely bad. I was able to really see down some of the steep landscape. Dan had been over this road several years before on an Elk hunting expedition, and had discovered something he wanted to show us. We were on our way to Sergeants Mesa, out in the middle of no where, and here in the middle of it, is a marble monument dedicated to soldiers. Dan had told me about this some time back, but seeing it was something to behold.



Dan and the Soldiers Stone

Dan and I both served in the military, and for us walking the area was a solemn experience. Surrounding the monument, radials out forming circles around the Soldiers Stone, were granite markers with sayings carved in them. The sayings were in many different languages, many of which were unknown to me. The size of the monument is probably 3 or 4 acres. There are no markers indicating a war memorial there, nor can I find any information on the site from the internet. We finished the evening with a big combination Steak fry which included some Elk steak Dan brought. Andy ginned up a big fire and a good evening was

had by all. And just when you thought you couldn't eat any more, Conner would bring around a bowl of home made chocolate chip cookies – just to top it off. Sunday found us cooking another big breakfast, and we took a lazy tour, with David in the lead, on a back road down the hill, and made a big loop enjoying the scenery. We made it back to camp early, and had another steak fry, another big fire, and some chocolate with brown crackers...the kids had some burned white sugar stuff with theirs, but I never could get into them thar Smor.. word things. Dan had to leave for home, so he missed the truly wild way to get woke up the next morning. Seems that the resident cattle herd got tired of us in their end of the meadow, so they ambled through camp a about o'sort of early, with the loudest cow bellers I've ever heard. It was like cow lips right on my ear! (Good word picture, huh?) Talk about coming alive! Well, it was about time to get up any way. When I came out of the trailer, I was greeted by Travis and Conner grabbing me to come and see the surprise. The "surprise" turned up to be the dozen or so cows, munching the grass about 50 yards from camp. We had another fine breakfast, watched David pack up to leave, and resolved that we had to pack and leave too. Andy packed up and left, then Linda and I finally broke camp, hooked up the trailer and started down the hill. Marshall Pass was a very relaxing run, with no pressures. A good run to do again.

Darryl  
Keep the rubber side down

### Next run: Mosquito Pass ~ September 16<sup>th</sup>

This is an easy fun pass, and with the trees changing, looks like it will be pretty. Weather should hold for the Saturday run, and the initial plan was that it could be an over niter, although I do not believe anyone is planning to camp out. Bring lunch and something to drink. Meet at the Western Station, east of Woodland Park at 8am, and leave at 8:30am. For Denver area traffic, meet in Fairplay at about 10am, to 10:15am at the intersection of 285 and CO 9, at the traffic light, just east in the pseudo Stuff\*Mart (grocery store) parking lot.

IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT GO, call me at 719 593-9829, or on Saturday, 719 963-8012, or after 9am Saturday, 719 330-7382. Confused? Then plan early and call the 1<sup>st</sup> number.

**Your input for Trip Planning**  
[CLCTrip@ColoradoLandCruisers.org](mailto:CLCTrip@ColoradoLandCruisers.org)

Something fascinating about water...



Travis and Conner Hayes