

# MOUNTAIN-EARS

## LARIMER COUNTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB

### March Club Trip

This month's trip will be to Happy Jack Recreation Area. Please meet at the North King Soopers, Wilox and North College. We will leave at 9:00 am Sunday March 24th.

Bring \$5 cash for parking, a can of chili to share, a sled, toboggan, or inner tube for fun. See more info on pg 7.

**D** Just a  
**U** reminder  
**E** that your  
**S** club dues  
are due by  
the March  
meeting.



### February Trip Report

#### *Swamp Creek, Stump Hill and Seven Mile Creek*

Mountaineers and guests started to gather at 8:00 a.m. for this month's snow trip to Swamp Creek, Stump Hill and Seven Mile Creek. By the time we left the King Soopers parking lot, we had 27 vehicles in our pretty impressive convoy out of town. We headed north to the Red Feather Road, then west to the Boy Scout Road.

We gathered at the ghost town of Manhattan to air down. We turned onto FSR-171 for the trip into Swamp Creek. Just past the Brinkhoff Homestead we started to encounter larger snow drifts which

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### **Last Meeting**

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We had 3 new guests join us this last month. Hope to see them all again.

Please welcome our three new Life Time Members: Clifton Dewitt, Dave Oden, and Elaine Allbrandt.

Congratulations on 20 years of membership and service to the club.

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took trip leader, Don, some time to bust open so that our large group could get through to the top of 7 Mile. Once we were in the clearing on top of Seven Mile, a few in the group took a lap around Swamp Creek before heading down into the Seven Mile meadow. Most of the group headed to the Stump Hill winter challenge to try their luck. You can only let five or six vehicles at a time go up to the top as there is limited space to turn around and park on top. As soon as everyone that had wanted to try the snowy hill climb challenge finished, they returned to the meadow for lunch. It was warm enough that we could mill around and socialize during and after lunch. To top it off, Don handed out his mom's delicious Rice Krispie treats, thanks Mom!

Our hunger pains satisfied, it was time to head down the mountain. There are 9 creek crossings and this time of year they can be treacherous. There are normally big ice lips that you have to transverse on both sides of the creek. The one going in is easy; it's like falling off a log. The one coming out of the creek is the one you have to watch out for. Once you are in the creek, you have to get up a head of steam and jump your front wheels up onto the ice shelf. At this point you think you are home free, but you still have to get the rear wheels up also. You have to do this without steering control as you are still on a sheet of ice with very little traction. Needless to say we had to do some winching and or use the snatching strap at

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Photo by Patricia Bell

almost every creek crossing.

There was some damage encountered by a few people on this trip. Guest Steve D. came away with a broken light and some front end sheet metal damage. Trip Planner, Coyote John, broke a rear axle on the last crossing and had to park it, get a ride to town and return with a trailer to retrieve

his ride. On the trail we came to a slab of ice that was about 50 feet long and 12 feet wide. Greg M. got most of the way across before sliding sideways into a tree at the end blocking the trail. Craig S. was already on the ice when he noticed that Greg was blocking the trail and all he could do is hit his breaks and slide sideways into a tree, smashing the window, caving in the passenger door and breaking the hard top plus doing some body damage. Greg's damage was to his headlight, grill and hood. Both vehicles were winched off the slab and were able to continue on down the trail under their own power.

For the most part, it was a fun day of wheeling with the Mountaineer family. We did have one other mishap that we didn't find out about until the next day. After lunch, Jason R. and Dan V. went looking for deep snow up in the Swamp Creek area. They came to a dead end and had to turn around. They soon realized that they both were stuck. Jason has a winch on his FJ-60 and used it to try and pull the

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front end around. During that exercise, he popped the bead on a tire. Also when winching Dan's vehicle around, they got some ice in the bead on one of his tires causing it to lose air. It took them about four hours to get Jason's tire to re-seat. During all that time they had to air up Dan's tire several times. When they finally got to some bare ground, they put Dan's spare tire on his Toyota for the trip home.

**El Guapo**

**Special Showing of Truck Night in America 6:30 pm Wednesday March 20th.**



At the Wednesday, March 20th, meeting the Mountaineers will have a guest presentation by Nate Chilson. Nate was a guest for several club functions in his red Chevy K5 Blazer while he attended UNC in Greeley before moving to Thornton. On Wednesday, March 6th, Nate was on TV competing in a show called Truck Night in America on the History channel. Through skilled driving and perseverance, he was able to win. Before the meeting at about 6:30, the show will be replayed for anyone interested in watching. During the meeting, Nate will talk a little more about his experience and what the process was like.

**Board Meeting: 7:30pm**


**April 8th John Schrader**

**Membership Meeting: 7:30pm** Mar 20th Knights of Columbus, 121 N Meldrum, Ft Collins  
April 17th Knights of Columbus, 121 N Meldrum, Ft Collins


**Club Trip: 9:00am**

**Mar 24th North KingSoopers, College & Wilox**

## March 2019

SUN 24	MON 25	TUE 26	WED 27	THU 28	FRI Mar 1	SAT 2
 Club Trip 9am Lucca Schmierer	Colleen Stengaard			(29th) Jody Heiderscheidt		Patrick Burch
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Brian Schmierer	Jeff Paben Laruen McFerran	Briley Zamora Hayden Lenderink Tasha Opdyke		Even Meyers Seleta Nothnagel		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Arya Graves Kent Schmidt Daylight Saving Time starts	Steven Donahoe Travis Golly	Antonia Saavedra			Darren Finger	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day		Josh Lietz Kelly Kapperman		Luke Manno	Bryce Delaney Lindsay Weegans Tammy Peterson	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Allen Peterson		Lori Golly	Hannah Anderson Sheila Mueller	Conner McFerran Rosie Robinson	Robin Noehl	Craig Stumbough
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6

## April 2019

SUN 31	MON Apr 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
				Cindy Ricklefs	Camiren Meyers Christina Eddy Seth Schooler	Jason Derflinger
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Scott Riley			Byron Noehl Randy Dacus		Bob Schleppy
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Tax Day		Samantha Lietz	Jim Dixon Rhea Tippmann		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Aaron Grubbs Easter Sunday	Justin Treece Easter Monday			Rich Stengaard		Dave Oden
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
		Scott Stultz		Karlen Mueller		Nathan Haywood

## March Trip Plan



This month we are bringing back the kids sledding day at the Happy Jack Recreation Area just East of Laramie. The trip will leave promptly at 9:00 am from the North College King Soopers parking lot. We will head north towards Laramie and soon after crossing into Wyoming we will turn off onto the Pumpkin Vine Road. The Pumpkin Vine winds across the high wind swept prairie until we come to a pyramid that is called the Ames Monument. We will then go on I-80 to the Lincoln Memorial rest area for a quick potty stop and then the last mile to Happy Jack.

This trip is not just for the Mountaineer youngsters but it is for the older crowd also. So load up your toboggans, sleds, inner tubes or bring whatever you think will give you a quick trip down the old ski slope.

In the past we have seen some unique rides on the slope; an ironing board, a bed pan or a grain shovel. You never know, you just might get the new kick-ass award for something new and unusual. For lunch we have a large pot suspended above a fire to cook all the cans of chili that you all supplied. If you wish to partake in all this fun, you need to bring one can of chili, a disposable bowl and utensils for each person in your vehicle along with a stick or two of firewood. Happy Jack is a fee area. Please bring \$5.00 per vehicle to pay when you park.