



The Rising Sun News

Official Newsletter of the Rising Sun Four Wheel Drive Club of Colorado, Inc.

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August 2002

Upcoming Events from the calendar:

Slaughterhouse Gulch Wednesday August 14th. Meet at the Giant Hot Dog in Aspen Park (just before Conifer) off of Rt. 285 at 4:00 p.m. Moderate/easy run. Great for stock vehicles and first timers, with a few fun obstacles for those with big tires and lockers.

Trail leader: Matt Farr

San Juan Trip: Bruce Miller will be leading us out west for our annual Ouray Trip. Dates are 6th, 7th, and 8th.

Chinaman's Gulch Run on Sat. July 27, 2002 consisted of the following:

Scott Yoder - 2000 4Runner, Mike Brown - 2001 4Runner, Steve Crase - FJ62, Matt Hinkley - Mini P\Up, Greg Luer - 85' 4Runner

We all had lifts and at least lockers in the rear.

We met at the Gunsmoke Truck Stop in Johnson Village. Unfortunately, we were late in leaving when Greg showed up. We were glad we caught him. None of us had run this trail before, so we didn't know exactly how to get to the trailhead. I had several sets of directions and a map from Internet write-ups. However, none of them seemed to match the roads and terrain very well. There were quite a few side roads and very few signs, so finding

Chinaman's Gulch was very



difficult. We saw one other vehicle, a Pinzgauer. We followed it for a while to get us close to the trailhead. The road gave us several moderate obstacles - nothing too difficult for lockers and the proper line. The terrain was very different from most Colorado runs - it was dry, sandy, firm rocks in a desert environment. Mike commented it reminded him of several runs he had completed in California. We stopped for lunch at 1pm without really knowing where our trailhead was. We eventually found ourselves coming back down toward hwy285 and near a pond. The road made a left hand turn and back up a Gulch. We figured we had finally found Chinaman's Gulch.

The trail soon started to get exciting. We all made it over one difficult obstacle after another.

Eventually, we came to a bit of an open area with a large rock garden on the right. I first looked at it and said "no way", but I figured we could watch Greg (Cheesman) go through it. He crawled through the garden with ease.

Next, Steve gave it a go with his FJ62 locked front and rear. He scrapped and



clawed his way through - only to get hung up against a large rock. His custom sliders were holding the weight of his vehicle and keeping him out of danger for the moment. He managed to back up just enough to reposition the truck and then popped up and over the obstacle. He finally made it! As he stated, he was "hangin' and bangin'". Mike Brown boldly decided he would try it with his "traction controlled" 4Runner. Mike bumped and grinded his way up and over - being careful to stay to the right of the large rock that gave Steve trouble. With peer pressure from my fellow 4Runner friend Mike, I just had to try as well. My spare tire hung me up. I needed the guys to push me back and off of it. I then gave it a little more power and popped up and over this very difficult obstacle. I was very pleased. This was the most difficult obstacle I had ever tried. No rocker panel damage either.

Later we came upon the largest obstacle in the trail. I saw this in the pictures. It had been described as an old waterfall with three main lines. The far right was difficult, the middle was more difficult, and the left was the "you must be crazy" line. I didn't even think it was an option, due to the fact that it was a rock wall, one story tall. Much to my surprise, Greg had been eyeing it and was planning an attempt. I couldn't believe he was going to try this! I got out of the way and got my camera out. It required a vehicle that could tackle an incredible approach angle to get his front tires on the rock. He then started to climb up until his rear wheels slipped in the large crack in the middle. He backed down several times until he got just the right line to give his rear tires grip. With his Runner in it's lowest gear possible, he crawled right up the rock. We all cheered him on! I had never seen this type of thing accomplished before. Of course, I haven't been to Moab either.

Several other difficult obstacles still had to be negotiated. One obstacle in particular gave Mike and I rocker panel damage. Of course, we could have taken the easier line to the left, but, with our recent accomplishments and confidence in our 4Runners, we took the more difficult line. This particular line required a left hand turn around a rock. Crunch! The rock hit my rocker panel and fender flare in front of my rear wheel. I figured "driver error". So what do I do? I try it again with the same result. This time my fender flare fell to the ground! Mike tried a different line over the rock, which crunched his rocker panel a little. He then slid down and over his right rear lower control arm. Fortunately, his control arm didn't appear to be bent.

To tally the day's damage total: Steve had broken a rear sway bar link when he popped his rear wheel way up into the air on one of our first descents, mostly superficial damage to the 4Runners with no sliders, and nothing serious to the other rigs. No major mechanical problems that would hinder our 100-mile trip back to Denver.

I loved the fact that this trail offered so many difficult obstacles with different lines with varying amounts of difficulty. If you were to take all of the easiest lines and bypasses, the trail would have been easier. Thus, the "7" rating. We will definitely be back! Scott Yoder aka JadeRunner



Rising Sun 4X4 Club Meeting Notice There will be a club meeting Wednesday, September 4th, 2002 at 7:30 PM at Larry Miller Toyota.

Minutes of the July 2002 Rising Sun Four Wheel Drive Club Meeting
July 3, 2002

Vice Commander Dean Baranski announced that **Commander Rob Meredith** was unable to attend and had asked Dean to run the meeting.

Officer Reports:

Secretary Jeff Zepp read the minutes from the June meeting. **Phil Simmons** made a motion to accept the minutes as read. **Bill Van Beek** seconded the motion, which was carried by vote of the membership.

Those in attendance at the meeting introduced themselves. Visitors included **Mike Brown** and his 2001 4Runner, **Nik Inay**, **Clay Mills** and his 96 4Runner, and **Jill** and **Neil** in their 1976 FJ40.

Vice Commander Dean Baranski said the annual Rising Sun trail cleanup on Deadman's Creek was fun and successful. The trail wasn't too dirty, other than an air tank. It was a weekend of fires, the fire started while they were there. The fire was only 2 miles away.

Event Coordinator Mike Aaron reported that since the last meeting we had done Spring Creek, and the Kremmling Crawl. Coming up will be the Glacier Ridge Run. **Scott Yoder** described the trail. Run set for Sat. the 13th. Argentine Pass is set for the 20th. The August 3rd run on Blanca Peak is cancelled. Mike is working on an alternative, maybe Moody Hill/Crystal Mountain. Mike will lead Middle St. Vrain/Coney Flats July 27, it is do-able in a stocker. Tentative date for Triple Bypass is August 17, **Bruce Miller** is working on it. They are planning to add Italian Creek. Jenny Creek is a possible run.

Treasurer Phil Simmons reported that the club has a current balance of \$2606.72 in the bank. There are still some members who have not paid dues. Phil reported that he got a copy of a letter to the Colorado Secretary of State, dated June 10th applying for reincorporating the club. **Dan Markowski** submitted it on behalf of the club as voted upon at the June meeting.

There was no **Land Use** report.

There was no **Webmaster** report.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

Mike Aaron suggested that we rent the Kremmling off road park for a weekend some time this fall. He also brought up the idea which had been suggested on the mailing list to have "Earth Roamer" Bill Swails give a presentation to the club about his Dodge expedition rig and travels. The presentation would last about 60 to 90 minutes. He will be available after August. **Dean Baranski** suggested that we should look at the web site www.earthroamer.com and vote at the next meeting if we would like to see his presentation.

Jeff Zepp asked for contributions to the web site and newsletter.

Ige Gustavson announced that she knows of a 1970 FJ40 with a nice body in Commerce City for \$2500 that needs a 2F transplant finished on it.

Perry Loughridge announced that Off Road Solutions will be having an open house on August 17th. It is located at 9491 W. 44th, at I-70 and Kipling.

Dean Baranski asked who had the art work for the club logo. **Greg Luer** suggested that it is probably in the box of Treasurer's documents that gets handed down. Greg also mentioned that in that box are a lot of old club newsletters that had some good tech articles that would be great to recycle again for the newsletter.

Dean Baranski asked the membership if we would like to spend some club money on a raffle prize for the next month's meeting. **Scott Yoder** Made a motion that we should, after some debate a figure of \$60 was agreed upon and **Dean Baranski** seconded and the vote was carried by the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.