

Calvary 4-Wheelers 2023 Tentative Schedule

January 21: Annual Potluck

trail: **Calvary Church**

near: Broomfield

rating: very easy

meet: Room 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for remembrances of 2022, a look ahead to 2023, a little fun, a lot of good food and our usual, silly awards. Brochures for 2023 should be available.

February 18: Snow Wheeling

trail: **Sante Fe Mountain (Hidden Wilderness Road)**

near: Idaho Springs

rating: moderate (easy when dry)

meet: Kum and Go at 1319 Miner St, Idaho Springs at 9:00 a.m.

This little-known trail just outside Idaho Springs should make a nice snow wheeling trail. It is easy when dry, fairly wide, and doesn't have any shelf road or drop offs to worry about. We'll take it up to the dead end and back. If the snow is light and we make good time, we might also head up Spring Gulch or Ute Creek to finish the day.

Mar 23-27 Spring Break Spring Break Trip to San Rafael Swell, Green River, UT:

Thursday, March 23: **Drive over, set up camp.**

Possible after dinner/sunset run to Crystal Geyser or the old missile base. Most of us will be staying at Shady Acres RV Park. There are also several hotels/motels in Green River if you prefer not to camp. Let Bill know if you are interested in caravanning over with the group

Friday, March 24:

trail: **Labrinth Rims west**

rating: easy to moderate

meet: at Shady Acres at 9:00

Just south of the town of Green River, the river enters a narrow, twisty canyon known as the Labrinth. We will take Lower San Rafael Road south from town on the west side of the river and explore several spurs out to overlooks of the canyon before heading back to camp for a potluck dinner.

Saturday, March 25:

trail: **Back Way to Moab**

rating: moderate with a challenging option

meet: at Shady Acres at 9:00

There is a network of back roads and 4wd trails that link Green River to Moab on the east side of the river. We will wind our way through this network with the option of going over or around the more challenging Dee Pass. Once we reach Moab we'll see if we have a little time for shopping/sight-seeing, eat dinner there, and then return via the highway.

Sunday, March 26:

trail: **Hyde Draw and Cliff Dwellers Flat**

rating: easy to moderate

meet: at Shady Acres at 9:00

This is an area of the San Rafael Swell we have passed several times but never explored. It starts off Buckhorn Draw, crosses under the highway to a small network of trails around Cliff Dwellers Flat. We'll see how much of the area we have time to explore before heading back to camp.

Monday, March 28: **Break camp and head home**

No trail run planned.

April 15: Easy Spring Warm-up

trail: **Packer Gulch**

near Tarryall Reservoir

rating: easy

meet: Kum and Go at US 285 and Kings Valley Road, just west of Conifer at 9:00 a.m.

A couple of years ago we explored some trails south and west of Tarryall Reservoir. This is another trail in that area. It links into a small network of trails directly south of the reservoir, west of Tarryall Road that we have never explored. This should be a fun day of discovering new territory.

May 20: Spring Fling

trail: **Old Little Bear Creek Road**

near: Idaho Springs

rating: easy to moderate

meet: Kum and Go at 1319 Miner St, Idaho Springs at 9:00 a.m.

While exploring gravel roads between Idaho Springs and Squaw Pass Road this last Fall, I found this section of county road signed: "Off-Road 4 Wheel Drive vehicles Only." I don't know for sure how rough it really is, but if it was challenging or difficult, I would have heard about it before. We'll see what is there and come out on Squaw Pass Road. The trail is only about 2 ¼ miles long, so we should have time to add **Old Squaw Pass Road** and/or **Devil's Nose** to round out the trip.

June 3: Late Spring Outing

trail: **West White Pine Mountain, Monument Gulch, and Old Flowers Road**

near: Ft. Collins

rating: easy to moderate

meet: Starbucks on the north end of Larkridge at 9:00 a.m.

We tried to run these trails a few years ago but were thwarted by the Cameron Peak fire which closed everything in that area. Hopefully there will be no new fires this year to prevent us from enjoying this very pretty area west of Ft. Collins

June 17: Challenge Trip

trail: **Red Elephant Hill and Mill Creek Loop**

near: Empire

rating: challenging

meet: Kum and Go at 1319 Miner St, Idaho Springs at 9:00 a.m.

This is the hard way into the Bill Moore Lake area. It features big rocks, narrow shelves, and off-camber obstacles. Once we get onto the Mill Creek Loop there are more big rocks, tight turns through the trees, and a couple moderate water crossings. In addition, there are many old cabin ruins, pristine forest and beautiful views. This run is not recommended for beginners.

June 29-July 3: Summer Excursion to Aspen Alley, Encampment, WY

Thursday, June 29: **Drive over, set up camp.**

No major trail run planned for this day but a quick after-supper/sunset trip to the Ditches or part way out Divide Headquarters might be a possibility.

Friday, June 30:

trail: **West Fork**

rating: moderate

meet: State Highway 70 and FSR 801 (Deep Creek Road) at 9:00 a.m.

This is a trail that we did a few years ago that connects over into Colorado. If we make good time, we'll add in **Elkhorn Mountain** (moderate 4wd) and return via **Hog Park Road** (graded gravel) and highway 70 (paved). If there is not enough time for that we'll return via **Little Snake River Spur Road** (graded gravel) and highway 70 (paved).

Saturday, July 1:

trail: **Continental Divide** (north segment)

rating: moderate

meet: State Highway 70 and FSR 801 (Deep Creek Road) at 9:00 a.m.

We have tried a couple times to run the Continental Divide trail from the south and have always been stopped or slowed enough by the big snow drift that we have never completed it. This year we will try coming at it from the north from Jack Creek Road. If we can get far enough, we will take North Spring Creek to make a loop back to Jack Creek Road.

Sunday, July 2

trail: **Rim Road and Hog Park Road**

rating: very easy

meet: Christian Community Church at 10:45

We'll attend church in Encampment then go out for lunch. After lunch we'll return via Rim Road and Hog Park Road (both graded gravel).

Monday, July 4: **Break camp and head home**

No trail run planned.

July 15-Summer Fun

trail: **Peru Creek** (and spurs)

near: Keystone

rating: easy to moderate

meet: Kum and Go at 1319 Miner St, Idaho Springs at 9:00 a.m.

This trail has been on my to-do list for several years. We had it on the schedule last year but never made it. The area is noted for its mining history and several significant ruins stand along it and its spurs. The main road is easy 4x4 up the wide, scenic valley, getting gradually rougher until it ends as a moderate trail in the majestic bowl below the western side of Argentine Pass. Several spurs run out and back up various gulches feeding into the valley leading to more historic mining sites and providing beautiful views of the valley. These spurs are slightly rougher than the main road and bump into the moderate category.

July 28-30: Calvary Family Campout

The Calvary Family Campout will be the last weekend in July and will return to Camp Hale again this year. This is not a Calvary 4-Wheelers event but several of us usually attend and put together an impromptu bonus trip.

August 5: Challenge Trip
Middle St Vrain/Coney Creek

near: Peaceful Valley

rating: challenging

meet: Circle K in Lyons 9:00 a.m.

These two trails up the St. Vrain Canyon are a couple of old favorites. In previous years they have been rated moderate but have gotten significantly harder in the past couple years. There are now a couple of large rock obstacles on the climb from the end of Middle St. Vrain to the deep water crossing on Coney Creek and one significant ledge on the way down the other side. Stock vehicles can probably make it through but may need a strap or winch in a couple places and they risk some damage.

August 19: Back to School Special
trail: Jenny Creek and Rollins Pass east

near: Rollinsville

rating: moderate

meet: McDonalds on 28th St. just north of Canyon in Boulder in the north parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

Jenny Creek used to be a challenging trail with a couple rough, rocky sections in the creek itself but the Forest Service re-routed it out of the creek a few years ago, and now it is a very pleasant, moderate route part way up the east side of Rollins Pass. Rollins Pass is still closed at the Needle Eye Tunnel due to a series of rock falls in the tunnel resulting in several injuries and at least one death. If there is time, we'll continue up the pass to the closure and then return down the Rollins Pass Road.

September 7-10: Overland Adventure

trail: **Grand Junction to Moab via 4wd roads**

Overlanding is a style of off-roading combining camping and 4-wheeling in a self-reliant journey from one place to another following dirt or 4wd roads and avoiding pavement as much as possible, usually over several days, weeks or even years. This would involve camping on the trail in tents or in our trail rigs, no campers or RVs.

Thursday, September 7: **Denver to Grand Junction**

We will leave home mid-afternoon and drive to Rabbit Valley, just west of Grand Junction to camp for the night.

Friday, September 8: **Rabbit Valley to Dewey Bridge**

We'll follow the Kokopelli Trail (motorized route) around Harley Dome, through Coal Draw, past Westwater and Cisco Landing to Highway 128. There will be a brief section on the highway before we skirt the edge of Dome Plateau and re-cross Highway 128 at Dewey Bridge. We'll start up Entrada Bluffs Road and camp just east of Dewey Bridge near Top of the World.

Saturday, September 9: **Dewey Bridge to Porcupine Rim**

This day will take us over Rose Garden Hill, Up Thompson Canyon and around Cowhead Hill. From there we'll head south through Pinhook Canyon and camp at Mason Draw Campground on the north side of the Manti-La Sal Mountains.

Sunday, September 10: **into Moab and return home.**

Our last day we will traverse across Upper Porcupine Rim to Sand Flats Road and down Sand Flats Road into Moab. After spending a little time in town, we will return home via the highway.

September 23: Aspen Viewing

trail: **Waldorf Road, Leavenworth Creek, Argentine Pass, and McClellan Mountain**

near: Georgetown

rating: easy to moderate

meet: Kum and Go at 1319 Miner St, Idaho Springs at 9:00 a.m.

The area around Georgetown should provide a good opportunity to see the fall colors. We'll start out in the aspen as we make our way up the Historic Waldorf Wagon Road which, ironically, follows Leavenworth Creek more closely than the easier Leavenworth Creek Road which follows the old railroad bed. Eventually we will rise above timberline as we get to the old townsite of Waldorf. Unfortunately, what was left of the old town burned down in the 1980s and there are no buildings still standing but there are excellent views back down the valley and across to Paine Mountain. From there we will continue up to the summit of Argentine Pass where we will enjoy panoramic views including looking down into the Peru Creek valley that we ran back in July. After returning to Waldorf, we'll see if there is time for a side trip to McClellan Mountain and/or Ganley Mountain before returning down the easy Leavenworth Creek Road.

October 21: Fall Fiesta

trail: **Bunce School, Ironclads, and T-33 Plane Crash**

near: Allenspark

rating: moderate to challenging

meet: Circle K in Lyons 9:00 a.m.

Bunce School Road is an old favorite. The main road is easy, but we'll spice it up with side trips around the Ironclads loop (moderate) and out to the T-33 plane crash site (high side of moderate to low side of challenging with optional lines that can bump into the difficult category). The plane crash spur is near the end of the main road so anyone who doesn't want the challenge can skip it and just head on out to the highway.

November 4: End of Season Trip

trail: **Lost Park and side roads**

near: Jefferson

rating: moderate

meet: Kum and Go at US 285 and Kings Valley Road, just west of Conifer at 9:00 a.m.

Lost Park Road is an easy trail northeast of Jefferson that leads to a small network of moderate side roads. We'll cover as much of this network as time and conditions allow. There may be some snow, but this is not intended to be a major snow wheeling trip.

November 25: Turkey Wheeling

trail: **Cedar Mountain Road & Turkey Rock**

near: Deckers

rating: moderate (easy when dry)

meet: Kum and Go at US 285 and Kings Valley Road, just west of Conifer at 9:00 a.m.

Turkey Rock seemed like an appropriate destination for Turkey Wheeling. It is a short spur off Cedar Mountain Road (Cedar Mountain Road is the access road to Metberry, Longwater, and Hackett gulches). Both Cedar Mountain Road and Turkey Rock are easy under good conditions but will likely have snow by this time of the year. If conditions are favorable and we make good time, we'll return to West Creek via District Boundary and Trail Creek Road. If the going is slow, we'll get as far as we can and return the way we came. Chains are recommended but not required.

December 16: Snow Wheeling

trail: **Jumbo Mountain**

near: Rollinsville

rating: moderate (easy when dry)

meet: McDonalds on 28th Street just north of Canyon in Boulder at 9:00 a.m.

Jumbo Mountain is a spur off Moon Gulch just south of Rollinsville. Depending on how much snow we find we might make it all the way around the loop, or we might get a quarter mile or less. If there is too much snow, we might go over to Gamble Gulch instead. Either way we will have fun.