

C4W 2024 Tentative Schedule

January 20: Annual Potluck

trail: **Calvary Church**

near: Broomfield

rating: very easy

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

Join us for an evening of food, fun, a look back at 2023, a look forward to 2024, and, of course, our highly anticipated awards presentation. Brochures for 2024 should be available.

February 17: Snow Wheeling

trail: **Saylor Park & County Line**

near: Rampart Range

rating: moderate

meet: McDonalds in Monument at 10:00 a.m.

These two trails off of Rampart Range Road, above Monument, are easy under dry conditions and should provide a good opportunity for snow wheeling. This will also include parts of Ice Cave Creek and Winding Stairs to complete a loop from Rampart Range Road and back with a couple of out-and-back spurs along the way. Be sure to dress warmly in layers. Chains are recommended but not required.

Mar 21-25 Spring Break Trip to San Rafael Swell, Green River, UT:

Thursday, March 21: **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 22:

trail: **Labrinth Rims west**

rating: easy to moderate

meet: 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 23:

trail: **Back Way to Moab**

rating: moderate with a challenging option

meet: 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/sightseeing, eat dinner there, and then return via the highway.

Sunday, March 24:

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

rating: easy to moderate

meet: 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 of Buckhorn Draw and crosses under the highway to a small network of trails around Cliff Dwellers Flat. We will see how much of the area we have time to explore before heading back to camp.

Monday, March 25: **Break camp and head home**

No trail run planned.

April 20: Easy Warm Up

trail: **Bordenville Gulches**

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.

This network of easy trails northeast of Tarryall Reservoir has three distinct sections requiring short portions of highway between them. Their placement on the hills of the east side of South Park provides scenic views and the southwest-facing slopes do not accumulate large amounts of snow, although we will probably encounter some.

May 18: Spring Fling

trail: **Gordon Gulch & Switzerland Trail side roads**

near: Boulder

rating: moderate

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

Gordon Gulch and Switzerland are both easy trails in the foothills above Boulder. We will spend part of our time on the easy trails but will take the moderate side roads whenever possible. If there is enough interest, we might finish the day with the challenging Pennsylvania Gulch.

June 1: Challenge Trip

trail: **Yansing Gulch aka Chinaman Gulch**

near: Buena Vista

rating: Challenging to Difficult

meet: Johnson Village, south of Buena Vista at 10:00 a.m.

Chinaman Gulch is a popular and well-known challenging trail south of Buena Vista. It was renamed Yansing Gulch a few years ago because some people thought the word "Chinaman" sounded racist. Nevertheless, it is a fun trail full of steep, rutted hills, large rocks, and challenging ledges. Many of the obstacles have optional lines that push well into the difficult category. It will be a full day of hard wheeling. Also, note that Google Maps estimates the trip from Denver to Johnson Village is about two and a half hours, so you will need to make an early start and probably won't get back until late. Some people may opt to go up on Friday night and stay in the Buena Vista area to shorten the day. This trip is not recommended for stock vehicles or novice drivers.

June 15: Early Summer Outing

trail: **Parachute Hill, Coyote Hill, & Pierson Park South**

near: Allenspark

rating: moderate

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

Pierson Park runs from near Allenspark to just outside Estes Park, however, several years ago, a landslide bisected the trail closing a section in the middle and making each half an out-and-back trail from their respective trailheads. There are talks underway to rebuild and reopen the middle section, but it will probably be several years before that project is completed. Parachute Hill and Coyote Hill are two less-known out-and-back trails in the same area. They are only about a mile long, so, even together they don't make a full trip, but combined with the south end of Pierson Park they will make for a fun day of scenic wheeling.

July 6: Challenge Trip

trail: **Red Elephant Hill, Mill Creek, & Bill Moore Lake aka Empire Loop**

near: Downieville

rating: challenging to difficult

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

Red Elephant Hill is the most challenging route to reach the Bill Moore Lake area, and it is also the toughest of the three sections of the Empire Loop. This steep and loose climb has many rocky obstacles that may tip you uncomfortably towards the downhill side. Once we reach the top of the hill, we will connect to Mill Creek, which is the second leg of the loop. While Mill Creek is not as challenging as Red Elephant, it still has some rocky obstacles and tight turns through the trees. After completing Mill Creek, we will join the Bill Moore Lake trail, which is the easiest and final leg of the loop. Here, we will decide whether we have the time and energy to continue up to Bill Moore Lake or just go down to Empire via the moderate trail. Please note that this trip is not recommended for novice drivers or stock rigs. If there is enough interest, we could arrange a parallel trip up the moderate Bill Moore Lake trail.

July 18-22: Summer Excursion to Encampment, WY

Thursday, July 18: **Drive over, set up camp.**

We plan to stay at the Lazy Acres Campground and RV Park in Riverside. They have tent sites, RV sites, cabins, and motel rooms available. <https://lazyacreswyo.com> Other accommodations are available in the area if you prefer. Make your own reservations.

Friday, July 19:

trail: **Spurs off of Hog Park Road**

rating: mostly very easy to easy with a few sections of moderate

meet: Lazy Acres Campground at 9:00 a.m.

Hog Park Road is a graded county road that runs from Highway 70 to the Colorado Border. Along the way, there are many spurs and connecting roads. We will explore several of these spurs on our way to Hog Park Reservoir, then return via Rim Road.

Saturday, July 20:

trail: **Snowy Range Loop**

rating: Unknown but probably easy to moderate

meet: Lazy Acres Campground at 9:00 a.m.

The mountains to the east of the Encampment Valley are known as the Snowy Range. They contain a huge network of back roads and 4wd trails. We will scratch the surface of the southwest corner of this network with a loop around the Savage Run Wilderness Area and past Rob Roy Reservoir.

Sunday, July 21: Church at Christian Community Church and lunch in Encampment, then pick an option.
meet: Christian Community Church at 10:45

Option 1: Spend the afternoon in **Saratoga** and visit the **free hot springs**.

Option 2: A **tour northwest of town** on probably mostly gravel roads, but, hopefully, some two-track dirt BLM roads thrown in.

Monday, July 22: **Pack up and drive home**

July 27: Challenge Trip

trail: **Wheeler Lake**

near: Alma

rating: challenging

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

This trail starts at Montgomery Reservoir, located northwest of Alma, and leads through a stunning mountain valley surrounded by 14ers, all the way up to Wheeler Lake. However, there are several obstacles along the way that make it quite challenging for stock rigs and also increase the risk of damage. While we have seen stock rigs make it to the lake, often with assistance, if you don't want to push your limits or risk damage, this trip may not be suitable for you.

August 2-4 Calvary Family Campout at Camp Hale

This is not a Calvary 4-Wheelers event but several of the group will be there, and we will probably put together a bonus trip or two.

August 17: Back to School Special

trail: **St Johns, Middle Fork of the Swan, Georgia Pass**

near: Montezuma

rating: moderate

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

This scenic tour of Summit County features sweeping alpine vistas, interesting mining history, wildlife viewing (especially mountain goats), and fun, moderate wheeling. We'll start in Montezuma, southeast of Keystone, and end up in Jefferson, in South Park, on this day-long adventure.

August 31-September 3: Overlanding Adventure:

trail: **Grand Junction to Moab, Dolores Triangle Route**

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, with no campers or RVs. Last year we went from Grand Junction to Moab via the Kokopelli Trail. This year we will make a similar journey taking a route through the Dolores Triangle.

Friday, August 31: **Denver to Grand Junction**

We will leave home mid-afternoon and drive to Colorado National Monument, just west of Grand Junction to camp for the night. An entrance fee to the monument will be required.

Saturday, September 1: **Colorado National Monument to Dewey Bridge**

We'll follow DS Road and Triangle Road into the Dolores Triangle, traverse any or all of Buckhorn Mesa, Hotel Mesa, and Scharf Mesa, and camp in Cowskin Campground, just east of Dewey Bridge near Top of the World.

Sunday, September 2: Dewey Bridge to Porcupine Rim

This day we will continue past Dewey Bridge to Highway 128, go south to Onion Creek, up its canyon to 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.

Monday, September 3: into Moab and return home.

On 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 21: Aspen Viewing

trail: **Devil's Canyon**

near: Idaho Springs

rating: moderate

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

The area between Idaho Springs and Echo Lake is one of the premiere aspen viewing venues in the state. This trail leaves Highway 103 about two-thirds of the way to Echo Lake. It runs through a beautiful stand of aspen and provides wide views of the aspen-laced mountains all around.

October 19: Fall Fiesta

trail: **Warden Gulch & Chihuahua Gulch**

near: Keystone

rating: moderate

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

Last year, on our trip to Peru Creek, we ran out of time before we got to these two spurs off of the main trail. This year we will go back and rectify that. This area is known for its scenery as you get spectacular views of the backside of Grays and Torrys Peaks and the surrounding mountains. It is also noted for its rich mining history, although there are not as many ruins on these two trails as there are on other trails in the area. If we have extra time, we may retrace our route from last year up Peru Creek and/or Cinnamon Gulch.

November 16: End of Season Trip

trail: **Rampart Range & Rainbow Falls areas**

near: Sedalia

rating: easy to moderate

meet: Conoco in Sedalia at 9:00 a.m.

We will take a meandering route through the Rampart Range and Rainbow Falls areas from Highway 105 to Highway 67 and back. The roads we will take range from graded gravel to the high side of moderate. This area is very beautiful as we make our way through pine, fir, and aspen forest. It is also very popular, especially for quad and side-by-side users, so we will most likely encounter plenty of traffic. This late in the Fall, there is the possibility there will be snow, but this is not intended as a major snow wheeling trip.

November 30: 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 Hacket 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 28: 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 easy out-and-back trail near Idaho Spring should provide a good venue for snow wheeling. It doesn't have any narrow shelf sections, is not extremely steep, and isn't very rough. It is also very beautiful. The road goes from Soda Creek Road, near the Indian Springs Resort, to a locked gate at the private Hidden Wilderness Ranch. It is easy when dry but will be harder in the snow. Chains are recommended but not required.