



Colorado High Trails

THIRD QUARTER 2024

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Jeep “Go Topless” Day

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Go Topless is a nation-wide event sponsored by Barricade Offroad, and hosted in Denver by Epic 4x4 Quest. The event has grown significantly in the past two years; for example, this year it is estimated that over 600 vehicles and 1,300 people participated, raising more than \$9,000 for area Law Enforcement and First Responder charities.



Rock Junction

Fruita, Colorado

Rock Junction and the Rocky Mountain Off Road Expo (RMORE) are traditionally the earliest major 4x4 events in Colorado. They are hosted by the Grand Mesa Jeep Club at the big yard on 21 Road in Fruita.

Registered participants enjoy trail rides on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday on 4x4 roads ranging from mild and scenic to extreme rock-crawling. Saturdays are reserved for the Expo, which is free admission to all. The Expo features vendor displays, parts swap (flea market style), food trucks, a Jeep/truck show, the big Rock Junction raffle and event trophy presentation.



This year, the events were May 30th to June 2nd. The Expo was on Saturday, June 1st. (Photos below from near opening time, before it gets crowded!)



Planning for the 2025 event has begun, so mark your calendar for June 4-8, 2025.

You can view more details about Rock Junction and the RMORE on Grand Mesa Jeep's website:

[GMJC.org/rock-junction](https://gmjc.org/rock-junction)



CHINA WALL

Tarryall, Colorado

By Kevin Smith

Greetings from Colorado Four Wheelers!

For those of you who are not familiar with our club, we have been around since 1968 promoting safe, responsible, family wheeling. We are based out of Colorado Springs and all makes and model of off-highway vehicles are welcome to join us; we are not a Jeeps only club.

We work with the South Platte Ranger District to help maintain the China Wall trail system and the eastern portion of the Badger Flats trails. But, it's possible you'll see us out there on any trail system we are wheeling cleaning and clearing trail damage! We believe it's all our responsibility to keep our trails maintained and beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

Several years ago, the China Wall trail system had some major issues when it was noted there was some erosion created by illegal trail expansion. On a very steep hillside the visitors had left the trail and created damage to the vegetation which was allowing the rain water to erode the hill.



The erosion was creating an issue where excessive silt was entering the stream at the base of the hill. At that time the “solution” was to close the trail system at the China Wall obstacle. This would keep the vehicles from accessing the hillside. Our club at that time suggested to the Forest Service that the areas creating the silt damage be cabled off and to repair the damage.

With countless hours being volunteered by CW4W and other groups/individuals, post and cable has been installed to block off the area from vehicle damage (with a side road access to the creek below). The club then used nearby deadfall trees to create drainage control on the hill side to slow water flow.



There was also a need to restore a closed camping area located in the Box Canyon portion of China Wall. The vegetation had been killed off by years of vehicle abuse and improper camping.

The club obtained two grants from the Wildland Restoration Volunteer group, and together the organizations prepared and re-seeded on the damaged hillside and a closed campsite area. The results are already taking root in both sites!! The vegetation should be matured in a couple of years and the damaged area should be “back to normal”.

We also have installed a gatekeeper at the gate of the FR 204 section. We’d like to thank the CORE Trail Crew, Stay the Trail , and the many volunteers who made the projects happen!



Gatekeeper obstacle installation before (above) and after (below)



CORE “Big Dig”

Tin Cup Pass, Hancock Pass, Tomichi Pass

CORE Trail Crew volunteers cleared snow drifts on Tin Cup, Hancock, and Tomichi Passes during the last days of June. These roads are popular Independence Day holiday destinations. (Alpine Tunnel West remains closed for construction at the Palisade).



It's important to note, however, that the portion of the road that “skirts” Mirror Lake remains submerged in 30-40 inches of water. The lake water level is subsiding, but may take weeks to return to “normal”.



4x4 Girls of Summer in the San Juans

Silverton/Ouray, Colorado

Summer trips to the high country are the BEST! Who wouldn't agree?

A small group from Colorado 4x4 Girls beat the holiday rush and visited Colorado's San Juan Mountains at the end of June. They found that most roads were open (thanks to the dozer work of Jan Juan County and Ouray County crews) and that the roads were relatively uncrowded. Based on the photos, it appears runoff is peaking...look at that water!



4x4 Girls of Summer in the San Juans Silverton/Ouray, Colorado



Other News



Open call for articles to be published in the 4th Quarter edition of HIGH TRAILS Newsletter (October, 2024). We need your content for future editions—articles can be from clubs or individual members alike!

- One page (or less) typed with 3-4 photos
- Describe the 5 W's: who, what, when, where and why it was a great experience.



Upcoming events:

- July 20-27, All-4-Fun

Hosted by Mile-Hi Jeep Club
Buena Vista

- September 14, Be Heard!

Hosted by Colorado 4x4 Girls
Denver

- September 27-30, 14erFest

Hosted by Colorado Off Road Enterprise
Buena Vista

MEMBER CLUBS

West District

Creeper Jeepers Gang
Durango, Colorado

Grand Mesa Jeep Club
Grand Junction, Colorado

Eagle County 4x4
Eagle, Colorado

Western Slope 4Wheelers
Montrose, Colorado

The Wild Bunch
Montrose, Colorado

North District

Big Thompson 4Wheelers
Loveland, Colorado

Bighorn Jeep Club
Denver, Colorado

Colorado 4x4 Girls
Denver, Colorado

South District

Bighorn 4x4 Club
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Colorado Land Cruisers
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Colorado Springs Christian 4Wheelers
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Ute Pass Iron Goats
Woodland Park, Colorado

Colorado Four Wheelers
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Associate Members

Colorado Off Road Enterprise (CORE)
Buena Vista, Colorado

ON THE COVER:
4x4 Girls celebrate summer in the San Juan Mountains.





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