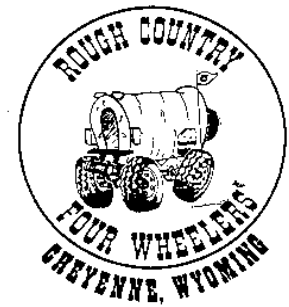


THE RANGER

LOW

Jan 2010



Rough Country Four Wheelers Inc
P.O. Box 3253
Cheyenne, WY 82003

www.rc4w.com

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mark these dates on your calendar or hang this on the 'fridge

Feb 2	Club meeting: 7:45 pm at Uncle Charlie's, upstairs meeting room. 6001 Yellowstone Rd, Cheyenne
Feb 27	Annual Awards/Video Party: 7:00 pm at Uncle Charlie's, upstairs meeting room. 6001 Yellowstone Rd, Cheyenne
Mar 2	Club meeting: 7:45 pm at Uncle Charlie's, upstairs meeting room. 6001 Yellowstone Rd, Cheyenne
Mar 20	Club Run: Bunce School Road above Lyons, CO Trip Leader: Details to follow depending on snow conditions and gate closure.
Mar 27	Club Event: Easter Jeep Safari. Moab, UT Contact Person: Rod Pepper.
Apr 6	Club meeting: 7:45 pm at Uncle Charlie's, upstairs meeting room. 6001 Yellowstone Rd, Cheyenne

Just give me high gear.....get me out in front of the pace car or we're screwed!!



RC4W NEWS

- Congratulations to Dewey for winning Top Dog this year. He made 10 runs this year and volunteered for the work trip. Plus he holds the Treasurer position. Thanks for your dedication Dewey.
- Club Officers:
 - o President: Rod Pepper
 - o Vice President: Joe Huston
 - o Secretary: Eric Brown
 - o Treasurer: Dewey Williams
 - o Board Members: Steve Wykoff, Chris Ladd, Paul Bickerton

Anniversaries:

John and Stephanie Stone 01/1997

Paul and Brenda Bickerton 01/1997

Chris and Heather Ladd 01/1997

Congratulations!!

Feb 27th is the Annual Awards/Video party, which will be at Uncle Charlie's this year. Awards will be presented to the winners of the Hook, Gearhead, and Dipstick awards so you don't want to miss that! Appetizers will be catered and drinks will be available at the bar. Last year was a great time and we all had some good laughs. Bring some video to watch or pictures to look at and share with everyone. I should have a couple new videos done myself.



Bunce School Road is the plan for the club run on March 20th. If the weather doesn't get too warm here in CO then Bunce has proven to be a fun time in the past. Details will follow on the run as we keep an eye on snow conditions and whether or not the gate will be open.

March 27th marks the start of Easter Jeep Safari in Moab. If you are wanting to go, get in contact with Rod to set up plans. Hopefully you have reservations by now though! Be sure your vehicle meets all the rules as they apply to Utah and the city of Moab or you will find yourself spending that gas money on tickets!



Tales From the Trails



Bald Mountain: The Beauty and the Beast!

'Twas the week before Christmas and while Santa and his reindeer were up screwing around at the North Pole, the Rough Country 4 Wheelers were headed for Bald Mountain! Few dare to attack Bald Mountain in the middle of the winter. That doesn't



apply to us! It has the largest concentration of Rocky Mountain Jumping Pine in the world. It's a steep, narrow and off-camber beast that loves to chew on sheetmetal and Jeep tops! It doesn't start getting good until about halfway up it's 10,000 ft. summit when the snow reaches the 3-4 ft. depth.

Another incredibly beautiful day greeted us as we arrived at the mountain village of Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. 9 well-prepped rigs were ready to find out what our old friend had in store for us on this day. Over the years, Bald Mountain has repeatedly reminded us that it nearly always has the upper hand



and can dish out an unlimited amount of punishment..... at will ! Our goal is always to crest it's summit. It's goal is to just stand there and bitch-slap us! It's the old "irresistible force meets immovable object" concept.

The sacrificial, yet willing, RC4W members on this run were Chris Ladd, Sean Murphy, Taylor Olson, Mike Jacob, Aaron Lenz, Paul Bickerton, Scott Grimm, Dewey Williams and myself. We also had two brave-hearted guests, Andy Heyd in his Samurai and Tom Cate and family in his TJ Rubicon. Chris and Sean rode as passengers.



2009

Dewey Williams	10	**
Scott Grimm	4	**
Eric Brown	3	**
Brian Kubal	2	**
Joe Huston	1	**
Marlon Seals	6	
Paul Bickerton	6	
Aaron Lenz	6	
John Stone	5	
Mike Jacob	5	
Howard Segal	4	
Steve Wykoff	4	
Rod Pepper	4	
Lenny Golding	4	
George Brook	3	
Taylor Olson	3	
Zach Martin	1	
Travis Kolbo	1	
Chris Ladd	0	
Craig Goble	0	
Richard Cisco	0	
Jim Carter	0	
Matt Romero	0	
Sean Murphy	0	
David Tedder	0	

* Superday

** Work trip

The first couple of miles up the trail were uneventful as usual. After that it was rpm's and engine temps fighting for first place! It quickly became a hammer down, cool off, and repeat, scenario. Paul and I shared trail busting duty off and on up to the summit. The big drift at the top was impressive. I really didn't think we could do it. Paul tried and tried but couldn't make any forward progress and was forced to back off. That



supercharged 4.0L was really pouring the coals to the 40" LTB's but old man Bald wasn't having anything to do with it! Time to up the ante! Could bigger tires and a lot more horsepower make the difference? Is a bigger hammer ALWAYS a good idea? After I got into position and was sitting in the launch mode, my thoughts drifted back to a distant time when we were snowbashing on Pearl-Beaver and I was in a similar position. I had the hood of my old big block Power Wagon pointed up a nasty hill. I was confident, man! It was "The Truck"! (you would have to have been around at the time). I had a great launch (it had a 4-speed) and things were going really well until ONE bad bounce put me into a tree head on. It took out ALL of the front sheetmetal as well as the radiator and fan. Dick Biggerstaff towed me home that night. It was a COLD biotch! That was in 1987. In 2002 he bought that truck from me!



As I gazed up to where I had to go it was the last drift that concerned me the most. It was 6 ft. tall on the left side and only about 2 ft. deep on the right side with trees hugging it on both sides. It's narrow, steep and off-camber. If the drift were hard it was going to power body slam me into the trees on the right side! BUT, if I could carry enough speed I might just be able to shoot through it off-camber. There was a decent launch area in the bowl between the two drifts. With my first launch I got farther than I thought I would

and I thought, "Huh, this may be do-able"! After several shots I was through the first and longest drift. I broke into the bowl area on the rev-limiter and had a split second to decide whether to stay in it and go for the off-camber drift or stop and try to work it a little. There's a fine line between sane and stupid. I failed! It hooked up pretty good in the bowl area and shot into the off-camber drift on the line that I wanted. Fortunately, it was soft and I just plowed into it. The top of the drift fell onto the hood of the Jeep. After several launches at it I was down to the one that I knew was going to go through it. The feeling of blasting through the last drift on Bald Mountain and out into the open at the top, never gets old because it doesn't happen every time! What a rush!

It took a good two hours to get everyone up through it but the view from the top is always worth it. To the West was the Rawah Range with the Laramie River valley in between. Beautiful!

Little did we know at the time but the big mountain had one last trick up it's sleeve! We started back down. I was bringing up the rear, Dewey was in front of me and Scott in front of him. In a split second a very clever Rocky Mountain Jumping Pine KO'd Scott's Jeep, breaking all the steering arm bolts on the right side. Surprise, surprise, surprise! Bad break! We had just been back in the Jeeps long enough to warm up and the next thing I know I'm laying under Scott's Jeep in the dark, in the snow, welding by flashlight with the Jeep perched precariously on just a Hi-Lift jack! Fun stuff! Our quick fix didn't last very long before it broke again. We then anchored Scott's winch to the wayward steering knuckle and he steered it off the mountain with just the left side tire. SLOW! It was a very late night and the big mountain got the last laugh after all!



Ride 'Till Ya Can't,
Rod



If you have any trip reports, events, announcements, or if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please let me know. As always, submit your pics to the web site to help keep it up to date and let the world know what we do. A special thanks to those that have helped me with trip reports this year since my Bronc is still down and I have not been able make the runs. Editor: Chris Ladd

Classifieds

5 TSL SX Super Swampers, 38.5x14.5x15, \$450 obo - Dewey 307-630-9106