

50+ Adventures Flashback
Marble, CO July 18 and 19, 2013

The MRD 50+ Adventures trips are on hold for now but memories of our adventures endure!

It was a beautiful day as we departed early for a trip to Marble to attend the annual sculpting symposium and to take a 4-wheel drive tour to the Crystal Mill. We had 15 participants, two had driven separately. We were traveling in our newly purchased 15 passenger bus. The sculpting symposium was great. We spent the morning viewing the works of art in process.

After a sack lunch, at 2:00 pm, we loaded into 3 jeeps for our Crystal Mill tour. About twenty minutes into the trip, the skies darkened and rain came down. It rained the entire trip, which we completed, but many of us were drenched as two jeep drivers didn't put up a cover.

I vividly remember hopping down from my jeep upon our return and one of the drivers coming up to me saying "there is a mudslide blocking the road, you might have to spend the night".

Our actual adventure had just begun!

I was hopeful, and quite certain, that the road would be cleared and we would be on our way. We ate dinner at the only restaurant in town and used their phone extensively to let our loved ones know that we would be late as there was no cell service.

One of our jeep tour guides, Chuck Moore, was also the curator of the Marble Museum. After dinner, he invited us to tour the museum to fill our time. He told me that he was going to gather pillow and blankets in case we needed to stay. He made arrangements with the church to house us there. All the while, I was certain the road would be cleared!?!?

Time kept ticking away. While at the museum, one of our participants began shivering excessively due to her wet clothing. I was referred to the fire station to get help.

I drove our new bus to the station narrowly missing taking out their satellite dish anchored up high on a post. I wasn't accustom to the height of the bus! I entered the station and found about 5 people sitting in a half circle having a meeting. I explained our predicament and asked if there was a clothes dryer that I could use. Initially they were confused but gave me a blanket and a t-shirt for the person who was shivering. There was an inn located in town that had a clothes dryer. As I left the station I turned and told them, "there will be more people needing dry clothes".

I headed back to the museum, loaded up our group and returned to the fire station. By now they completely grasped the severity of the situation and set up incident command! They had a white board upon which they drew out the situation.

All people with wet clothing were given blankets and t-shirts. We had to strip down to nothing so that *all* garments could be dried at the inn (which took over 2 hours). I had people sitting in the bus with the heat on high. Eventually we moved into the fire station.

It was now late evening. We were given drinks and snacks. One of our travelers was a diabetic without her evening insulin. She had been hospitalized the week before for high blood sugar levels! They

decided she needed to get insulin and transported her, via 4-wheel drive vehicle, below the slide, back to the main road and on to the Glenwood Springs hospital where she spent the night.

Continuous efforts were made to clear the road but as they removed debris, more slid down and covered it. At 10 pm, it was evident that we weren't going anywhere other than the Marble Community Church.

We each got to pick our pew for the evening and were given a blanket and pillow. We were extremely grateful for the accommodations. As you might imagine, it was a sleepless night, although there was some snoring going on!

At 6:30 am, the fire department folks returned our diabetic traveler to us! They had driven back to Glenwood Springs to pick her up. They also brought McDonald's breakfast and newspapers for all of us!

At 7:00 am, we loaded up for an escort out of town. We collected donations to leave for our hosts, the church and fire station. We couldn't have been stranded in a better place.

Upon our arrival in Montrose, there was a huge round of applause from everyone on the bus! I was worried about my fellow travelers so I called the next day to follow up. To a person, everyone was as happy as could be with a new and exciting story to tell!

For those of you who are new to the 50+ Adventures program, please note that not all of our trips include a *bonus* overnighter.

While we wait to begin our adventures again, look through your old photos and reminisce. Check out the link to photos from our Marble Experience.

We will be on the road again . . . I miss you all!

Cindy

Note: Monsoon rains arrived in force causing mudslides two days in a row. On our way in to Marble, we saw heavy equipment at the side of the road. We later learned that there was mud five feet deep and 70 yards wide that closed the road the day before we came. In a repeat performance, mudslides closed the road while we were there.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/AqkrDAhPEoL9nPqT8>