



# GHOST TOWN CLUB

## OF COLORADO

Exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of historical sites

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### **Field Trip: A Ghost of a Ghost: Caribou and it's Cemetery**

**Date of trip: 06/25/2022**

**Meet at 10:00AM at the Nederland Mining Museum (at the old shovel on west side of the roundabout)**

**Leader: Josh Robinson**

Caribou. A city so wind swept it needed bracing to keep its buildings standing vertical. Today a site marked by only a few buildings, but lots of foundations, and above it all on a hill, the remains of Caribou's dead. A true ghost of a ghost town. Armed with photos, the site comes to life, and its ruins rise again as a complete city. Bring your imagination along with your hiking boots.... We are going to Caribou.

### **Description of the day:**

We will start off by meeting at the shovel in Nederland, from there we will caravan up to Caribou Road, we will pass several semi-ghost sites, and one empty site before we reach the meadow that once was Caribou. There Josh will lead a talk and a hike around the site, tracing its streets and discovering its public buildings and places of note. From there we will lunch at the southeast side of the site. From there we will take a short 4x4 trail up to the lonely cemetery described by Bob Brown in his 1963 Book; Jeep trails to Colorado ghost Towns; "The Caribou Cemetery located three fourths of a mile north of the town, contains numerous headstones of young children and infants who died during the epidemics. This untended burial ground has returned to weeds and is the bleak resting place of most of Caribou's dead. Nearly all markers have been pushed over by the wind, and the weather has worn the inscriptions so that now only about fifteen can be read. Numerous young children, under ten years, died in a smallpox epidemic. Many share a common year of death."-RLB jeep trails to Colorado Ghost Towns 1963, pg.73.

Heavy stuff!

From there we will head back down to Nederland and find a place to have dinner. – Italian??

### **The ruins we will see:**

Caribou is an important site; the ruins however are rather ephemeral. The street grid will be plain to see along with many foundations and terraced places for buildings. Armed with photos and maps we will be able to locate most of Caribou's important buildings, both private and of a Civic nature. The East end of town has 2 large stone ruins that are of interest, and this will be where we eat lunch. These buildings were built very late in the life of Caribou just after its business district burned.

**Itinerary:**

**Meet at 10:00AM at the Nederland Mining Museum (at the old shovel on west side of the roundabout)**

**10:20AM Leave Nederland and caravan to Caribou :**

Approximately a 5 mile 2wd drive to the site. The road to Caribou as last seen is a reasonably well graded dirt road to the site. This can be completed in a sedan.

Note: You will likely need 4x4 to travel from the town to the Cemetery, or be prepared to hike 3/4 of a mile, or share a ride.

**Arrive near the site, begin walk:**

Once we arrive at the site, we will walk around the site and explore/discuss. Lead by Josh

Note this is a true ghost town and will require hiking gear. Also, bring along snacks and drinks, and/or whatever else you will need.

**Hiking rating as a 3+** The ground is a natural setting with debris, and unmaintained roads and paths, hilly inclines. Not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs, or persons not in good physical health. Or difficulty walking.

**Once at the site Josh will lead a talk discussing the history with a focus primarily on the architecture and archeology found at the site today comparing 19th and mid-20th century photos with what can be found at the site today.**

**12:00PM Eat lunch at Caribou:**

Pack your own lunch, drinks, and snacks, and/or whatever else you will need.

**4x4 to Cemetery**

After Lunch, we will 4x4 the 3/4 of a mile to the Caribou Cemetery.

**3:00PM Head back down to the parking area in Nederland**

**DINNER SOMEPLACE!!!**

To sign up for the trip, or for any questions, call or email Josh Robinson:  
(724) 630-0631

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