

Ridgway 2020 Just Campin' Participants,

The aspen will be turning soon and the San Juans will become a riot of color. Mike and I are very eager to welcome you to our corner of Colorado.

If you need to cancel, please call Carolyn Beardshear 317-910-0986.

If you wish to reserve a place on Friday morning's Group Jeep Trip into Red Mountain Pass, call Carolyn 317-910-0986. The tour is limited to 10 members. **Currently the first vehicle is filled, but we will schedule a second vehicle if we have 10 members interested.**

FIRST, THE BUSINESS

We'll be camping at [Ridgway State Park](#). Most of us will be in Loops G or F at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk, but a few will be camped at the Dutch Charlie (Elk Ridge or Dakota Terrace Campground).

[Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Map to print](#)

[Dutch Charlie Map to print](#)

Ridgway State Park is located 17 miles south of Montrose on the west side of Hwy. 550. There are two entrances to campgrounds: Pa-Co-Chu-Puk is the northernmost, then Dutch Charlie. *Note: The 60-mph speed limit on Hwy. 550 is strictly enforced.*

If you do not have an annual pass you will need to pay the \$9 daily vehicle pass **each day**.

- **Daily Vehicle Pass:** \$9
- **Annual Pass:** \$80 (affixed) or \$120 (hang tag)
- **Aspen Leaf Annual Pass (64+):** \$70

Note: There is no Wifi available onsite and cell phone coverage is spotty. There is cell phone signal near Hwy. 550, but perhaps not at your rig. Verizon works well on 550. AT&T, not so much. T-Mobile, zilch.

There has been **bear activity** in and near the park. A **NO TOLERANCE** policy is in place for food and coolers left outside the rig.

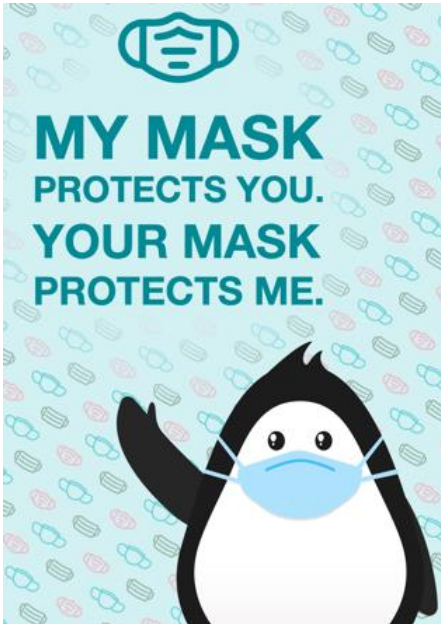
Every site in Loop G and F at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk has a fire pit, grill, and picnic table.

At this time there is no fire ban in place in Ouray County, meaning: **The fire pits at all campsites in Loop G and F may be used for campfires.** You MAY bring firewood from within Colorado.

Ridgway is at 7000' altitude. Being from Colorado, most of our attendees are accustomed to high altitude, but be vigilant about drinking water and aware of the [symptoms of altitude sickness](#).

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

We will be following President Benita Chappell’s and Colorado State’s recommendations for all CAC events:



- **Maintain social distancing from others (6-feet apart)**
- Wear a face covering especially when you are in a group or can’t maintain a social distance. **Make sure to bring a face covering with you.**
- Note: there is a statewide face covering mandate in place for Colorado. The park expects us to respect that.**
- Bring hand sanitizer with you.
- Wash your hands often.
- Keep group sizes reasonably small; (under 10). The Park Rangers will be reminding us if they see groups larger than 10.

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF YOUR FELLOW AIRSTREAMERS

If you’re feeling ill or have COVID-type symptoms, please stay home.

If you’re uncomfortable with these guidelines, please stay home.

NOW, THE FUN PART

Ridgway is a “Just Campin’” event without scheduled gatherings and meals. There is a covered picnic shelter reserved for our use in Loop G of Pa-Co-Chu-Puk campground, but we can’t gather in groups larger than 10 so the shelter should only be used by small groups (maximum of 2 groups). There is a grassy area around the shelter which can accommodate several small groups.

Sorry, but pontoon boat rentals ceased on Sept. 21 and due to low waterlevels there is no river rafting.

THINGS TO DO *Highly Recommended

Bring your fishing gear. Ridgway State Park is adjacent to two stocked lakes and the Uncompahgre River.

Interest Groups to self-organize group activities, from registration form. If you wish to be added to this list, email cbshear@gmail.com. Of course, everyone is welcome to participate in these activities.

Golf	Guided Fly Fishing	Group Jeep Tour	Individual Jeep Rental	Hiking	Biking
Zwetzig	Czenkusch	Silvers	Wolach	Silvers	Powell
Silvers	Huston	Nortnik	McVay	Cross	Baltzley - Cooper
Nortnik	Cross	Zimmermann		Powell	Storjohann
Phalen	McVay	McVay		Ottoson	Whipple - Mueller
Poggioni-Robbins	Carter	Whipple - Mueller		Gearhart	
				Storjohann	
				Whipple - Mueller	

True Grit Movie Sites Walking Tour – Friday only

Departs every Friday at 11 a.m. from the Ridgway Visitors Center (May through October). For reservations, call 970.626.5181. The fee is \$10 for adults and free for children under 12.

Hiking: <https://www.ridgwayareatrails.com/>

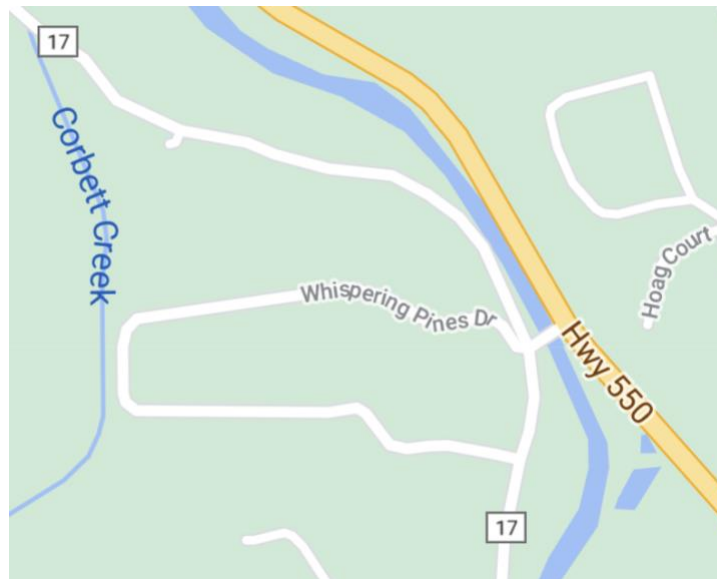
See Carolyn or Mike for additional details. We have a great book on these trails.

- Ice Park Loop Trail – Ouray – 1.98 mi. loop, 1.5 hours, easy if hiked *COUNTER CLOCKWISE*. Directions to Trailhead: From the Ouray Visitor Center (just north of the Ouray Hot Springs) drive south on Hwy 550 1 mile to Camp Bird Road. Turn right and drive .4 miles to **second** TH sign on the left (past the Ice Park Entrance). Do not take the Sutton Mine Trail (narrow and very steep). Ice Park Loop is a wider track.
- [*Box Canyon Falls](#) – Ouray - *From Ouray* – Take US 550 south of Ouray, less than half a mile to County Road 361/Box Canyon Road/Camp Bird Road. This leads to the visitor center parking area in a quarter mile. Short trail to slot canyon. Dogs not permitted. \$4 for seniors, \$5 for adults. Well worth it! A slot canyon with rushing water and walkways above. Stairs to bottom, but visible from the top. Great for kids, too.
- ***Baby Bathtubs Trail** – Ouray - .73 mile loop, 1 hr. Moderate
Water carved rocks along a rushing stream in spring. In fall the highly sculpted rocks are the attraction. Fairly steep up and down. Hiking poles are recommended for the downhill on a rock road. Directions to Trailhead: From the Ouray Visitor Center (just north of the Ouray Hot Springs) drive south on Hwy 550 for 1.7 mile to Amphitheater Campground sign. Turn left. Follow paved road .11 miles to TH on other side of the bridge
- ***West Dallas Creek Trail – Wow!** – Ridgway - 3.78 RT, 2.5 hours, moderate, packed dirt. **The drive is a 5-star scenic drive!** Hwy 550 south to stoplight at Hwy 62. Turn right/west towards Telluride. Drive 6.7 miles to the signed turnoff to **West** Dallas Creek Rd. Don't turn at "Dallas Creek Rd." Zero your odometer here. Drive 6 miles on the obvious main road to the National Forest Sign. At 6.1 the road is impassable for a short distance for anything except a very high clearance 4WD vehicle. I recommend parking in one of the open areas around the 6 mile point and walking the road to the trailhead. At mile 6.6 there is a Dallas Creek TH sign. **IGNORE THE SIGN** and continue to driving or walking to mile 6.7 and drive/walk across the creek. Stay to the right at the Y for 100 yards more. The TH starts at the orange gate in a **beautiful meadow called Box Factory Park. Stunning views of the San Juan Range.** The first part of the trail is a moderate hike through an aspen grove, then it descends into a beautiful meadow. A good turn around point. The next section is a short but very steep section in open sun. Great view at the top.
- [Perimeter Trail](#) above Ouray 4.4 miles Moderate Stop at the Ouray Visitor Center (just north of the Ouray Hot Springs) for details. Hike Clockwise for easier navigation. It's easy to hike just a portion of this trail.
- **Enchanted Mesa Trail** – Ridgway State Park Miles: 6.5 round trip, 2 ½ hours Moderate **See Friday Rally Schedule for a guided hike.**
- **Guston and Turntable Loop Hike** For **AVID** hikers. **Altitude 10,000'** with slight vertical gain. Road 31 off highway 550. Easy to Moderate Appx 4 miles hike. Additional miles to Yankee Girl Mine. 30 min drive to Trailhead near Red Mountain Pass. Hiking poles are suggested. Snack and plenty of water a necessity. **See Guided Group Hike at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, led by Rosanne Storjohann. Site G 268.**

Scenic Drives:

- ***See also: "West Dallas Creek Trail." Drive 6 miles towards the mountains. Gorgeous.**
- ***Last Dollar Road toward Telluride** – 2 hours 1-way Hwy 550 south to Hwy 62. West through Ridgway to the top of Dallas Divide. Near the top of The Divide will be a small brown sign "Last Dollar Road." Gravel Road to Sawpit Rd. (Do Not Continue on Last Dollar Road unless you love 4WD, VERY HIGH CLEARANCE ROADS – ADD AN HOUR) to Telluride.

- ***Owl Creek Pass** – From Pa-Co-Chu-Pak SP, South on Hwy 550 to CR 8. From Dutch Charlie, North on Hwy 550 to CR8. Follow the signs to Owl Creek Pass. The Vista Point is about half way to the Pass. Large Parking lot.
 - The area around Owl Creek Pass and Silver Jack Reservoir is a special location with countless hillsides of golden aspen at the base of rocky peaks, beautiful hiking trails, and wonderful vistas just from the road.
 - The road starts off of US-550 just north of the town of Ridgway and south of Ridgway State Park. It is a dirt road that is generally accessible to all vehicles –though when wet or snowy, it is a good idea to have a high-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle. The road has moderate traffic and can be muddy in spots. As you approach the pass, the most prominent peaks in the Cimarron Range are Chimney Rock (11,781 feet) and Courthouse Mountain (12,152 feet). **The first mandatory stop is the Vista Point, which is 8.8 miles from US-550.** It is a great spot to watch the sunset. A short walk along the trail southwest from the parking lot will lead you to a spot where there are oak groves and golden aspen in the foreground, spruce and fir closer to the mountains, and the rocky peaks in the background.
 - Another 5 miles up the road is the trailhead to [Stealey Mountain Trail No. 219](#), which provides access to Courthouse Mountain from the west and connects to other trails. The trail winds through aspen groves, and it is open not only to hikers but to mountain bikers, horses, and motorized recreational vehicles.
 - Two miles up the road is **True Grit Meadow (also named Deb’s Meadow)**, which offers great views of Chimney Rock and is named after John Wayne’s famous movie, a portion of which was filmed in that meadow. (What the locals call the “jousting scene.”)
 - Sixteen miles from US-550 is Owl Creek Pass (10,120 feet).
- **Back Road from Ouray to Ridgway (CR 17)** North of Ouray, from Hwy 550, past the Ouray Rotary Park (ice rink) on the right. Left on the bridge over the river (no road sign) to the T. Turn right on CR 17. Continue to CR 3 and turn left, which will take you into Ridgway.



- **Red Mountain Pass / Silverton** – Hwy 550 south through Ouray to Silverton. 60 minutes to Silverton, 13 miles to the Pass. Stop at Bear Creek Overlook
- **Elk Meadows** – Up close and personal with the face of Mt. Sneffels, highest peak in Ridgway area. From Ridgway, west on Hwy 62, but before leaving the town limits turn left on Amelia (across from Riggs Fly Shop/Rafting). Continue .2 miles to CR 5. Appx. 8 miles to Elk Meadows area. There is a parking on CR5 and a trail/ road into a wildlife refuge.
- ***Log Hill Valley View** - Excellent View of Ridgway Valley. Hwy 550 south to CR 24. Turn West/Right continue

up the escarpment. Turn around at Divide Golf Course and drive down the escarpment. 30 minutes



- **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park** – 40 min to south rim. Turn off is 6 miles east of Montrose on US. 50
- **Dennis Weaver Memorial Park** – Small park west of Hwy 550 just north of Ridgway/south of Ridgway State Park on west side of 550. Excellent eagle sculpture.

Riggs guided fly fishing Drift Boat, 2 person + guide, with lunch \$650, ½ day walk/wade with guide \$275 pp.

Ridgway State Park is located on the Uncompahgre River and two stocked lake. Bring your gear!

Orvis Hot Springs - Beautiful natural hot springs near Ridgway. Clothing optional. \$22 pp / \$18 for 1-hour soak

Ouray Hot Springs Cement Pool, in stunning location. \$18 adult, \$14 seniors (62-74) Fridays 12-8, Sat & Sun 11-8. Face coverings required, except in water, where family groups shall remain 6 ft. apart. Wear your suits and store belongings in your own tote bag on the deck. No lockers available.

Ute Indian Museum South of Montrose
Private Petroglyph Tour, 2 hours – Reserve with Museum

The Divide Golf Course: Call for T-times. (rates on website may be outdated). Price depends on time of day. 18 holes \$85 - \$55, 9 holes \$55-\$30. Senior (70+) and retired/active military \$55 for 18 holes, \$30 for 9 holes ALL DAY. Cart (\$20) not included.

*Colorado West Jeep Tours - Private Group Tour **RESERVATION REQUIRED**
\$67 pp (based on 10 persons per vehicle, includes taxes and gratuity) to Red Mountain Pass (12,000') on private, relatively smooth roads not used by other Jeeping Companies. **Call Carolyn 317-910-0986**

Private Jeep Rentals

Bike Trails – Ridgway Trails

- Montrose – TH Hwy 550 to Main Street, turn West/Left. TH is on left side, at bridge over the river.
- Ridgway – TH Ridgway Town Park, Dennis Weaver Park, Ridgway State Park

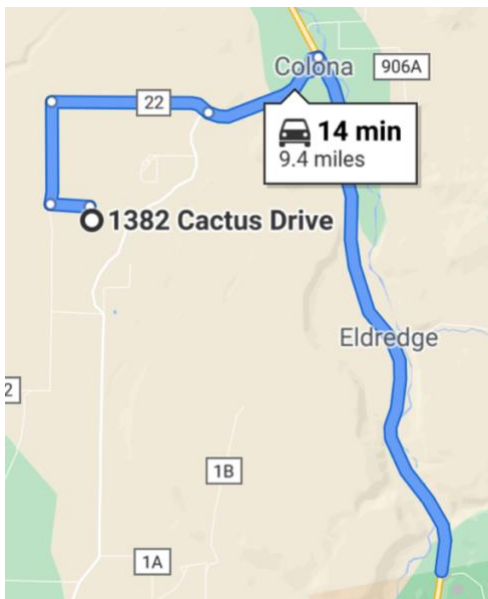
RALLY SCHEDULE:

Wednesday 9/23 (for those arriving early):

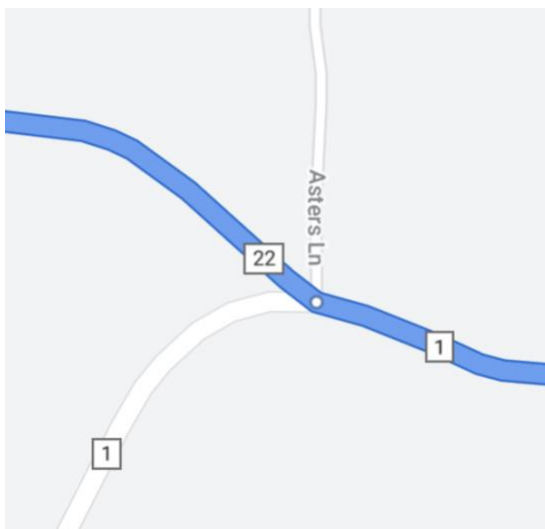
5 p.m. Happy Hour at Carolyn and Mike's - 1710 Cactus Drive, Montrose. Appx 15 minutes from campground. If your GPS doesn't recognize 1710, use 1382. Same road. BYOB and chairs.

Directions: Coming from Ridgway State Park:

- Drive North on US 550. After about 5 miles look for a small, blue "Espresso" sign. You're close. Prepare to turn left immediately after the green "Colona" sign.
- LOOK FOR THE "LA ZONA COLONA COFFEE" shop and the log building "COUNTY LINE ROADHOUSE." That's Hotchkiss Ave (also CR1). Turn west/left and follow CR1 (Hotchkiss Ave, Sneffels St.) through Colona and up a gradual but long hill to the first **road** on the right, CR 22 (also called CR 22B).



- THERE IS A HOUSE ON THE RIGHT at "Asters Lane" when CR 1 bends to the left; **you bear RIGHT on CR 22**. Don't turn on Asters Lane.



- Follow CR22 up the hill 2.4 miles. It will curve to the left before MM2.

- After CR 22 curves to the left, the first intersection (.4 Miles past Mile Marker 2) is Cactus Drive. (NOT CACTUS ROAD OR CACTUS LANE) There is a green street sign at the intersection of Cactus Drive, Coral Bell Drive and CR22.
- Turn LEFT and follow Cactus Drive as far as possible until it curves to the left and continue to the RV pad. We are at the very **end** of the road. Two story sage green house with brown trim.

Thursday, Sept 25

Check-in time is 1 p.m. or after Your site number will be on your reservation confirmation email. Happy Hour starts at 5 p.m. or whenever 10 people gather. Please observe social distancing and maximum group size of 10. Ridgway State Park insists on our maintaining appropriate group size.

5 p.m. Happy Hour – BYOB and chairs. No shared appetizers, please. Small groups of 10 or fewer. A list of “Happy Hour Groups and Hosts” is at the END of this brochure.

7 p.m. Book Discussion: High, Wide and Lonesome, led by Vicki Ottoson at the Picnic Shelter at the NORTH end of loop G. Bring chairs.

Friday, Sept 25

Relax, enjoy, visit with friends, hike, fish, take in the views or get out on the water.

- **Group Activity: Group Jeep Tour to Red Mountain Pass** (10 person maximum) RESERVATION REQUIRED **Signing up implies a commitment since the price is based on 10 people participating. Payment due at time of tour. Meet at site G240 at 7:30 a.m. if you wish to carpool or caravan to Ouray. If not, at 8 a.m. meet at Colorado West Jeeps, 701 Main St, Ouray, CO 81427 (970) 325-4014**
- **8:30 a.m. Enchanted Mesa Hike, led by Virgil and Sheila Turner**
Meet at the trailhead in Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Bring water and snacks. The five-mile round trip hike will take about two hours. There will be plenty of time to visit the Ridgway Farmers’ Market after the hike.

The first uphill section is moderately strenuous, but once the top of the Mesa is reached it levels out for most of the remainder. Several overlooks offer a high vantage point of the reservoir. This is a good trail for wildlife watching.

- **Farmers Market in Ridgway Town Park, 10-3.** Masks are required for entry.
- **11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Craftsman Leather Exhibits and Demo**, also mule-packing and blacksmithing demos. Ridgway Ranch History Museum, in the yellow depot building next to Ridgway Town Park. Good for kids and adults. Outdoors, free.
- **True Grit Movie Walking Tour**, 11 a.m. call 970.626.5181 for advanced reservations
- **Evening: Campfires** Please help your hosts and others by maintaining a maximum of 10 people and social distancing.

Saturday Sept 26:

More relaxation, visiting, boating, fishing, hiking, biking, photography...

- **8:30 a.m. Group Hike led by Rosanne Storjohann. AVID hikers only.** Guston and Turntable Loop / Road 31 off highway 550. Meet at site G 268 Appx 4 miles hike. 30 min drive to Trailhead near Red Mountain Pass. Altitude 10,000 We will need to car pool with masks due to limited parking. Hiking poles are suggested. Snack and plenty of water is a necessity.

- **11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Craftsman Leather Exhibits and Demo, also mule-packing and blacksmithing demos. Ridgway Ranch History Museum, in the yellow depot building next to Ridgway Town Park.**
- **2-4 p.m. Open House** at home of Mike Zimmermann and Carolyn Beardshear
See Wednesday schedule above for directions.
- **5 p.m. Happy Hours** – small groups of 10 or fewer- BYOB and BYOChair No shared appetizers. No group assignments. Please be considerate of the hosts who are charged with keeping the group under 10.
- **7 p.m. Book Discussion: Divided Sky** at the Picnic Shelter at the NORTH end of loop G. Led by Carolyn Beardshear Bring chairs.

[Sunday, Sept 27](#)

Have a safe trip home or stay a few more days in the area. Ask Carolyn or Mike for recommendations on camping.

<u>Thursday Happy Hours 5 p.m.</u>						
Host	<u>Nortnik</u>	<u>Reed</u>	<u>Silvers</u>	<u>Turner</u>	<u>Rose - @ G 240</u>	<u>Gearhart</u>
Site	F 231	G 280	F 229	G 262	G 240	G 258
	Heffington	Bohm	Cadice	Baltzley	Huston	Richie
	Phalen	Rosanne Storjohann	Zwetzig	Sayor	Wolach	Bernander
	Verhines	Karpinski	Larson	Kleiber	Czenkusch	Cross
	Whipple-Mueller	McVay	Kunze	Ottoson	Hughey	Scheurer
		Carter				
<u>Saturday Happy Hours 5 p.m.</u>						
	No Assignments	Please keep groups to 10 or fewer				
Host	<u>Whipple-Mueller</u>	<u>Zimmermann</u>	<u>Kunze</u>	<u>Ottoson</u>	<u>Hughey</u>	<u>Storjohann</u>
Site	G 254	G 240	G 250	G 239	G 243	G 268
Interest Groups						
	Golf	Guided Fly Fishing	Group Jeep Tour	Individual Jeep R	Hiking	Biking
	Zwetzig	Czenkusch	Silvers	Wolach	Silvers	
	Silvers	Huston	Nortnik	McVay	Cross	Baltzley - Cooper
	Nortnik	Cross	Zimmermann		Powell	Storjoohann
	Phalen	McVay	McVay		Ottoson	Whipple - Mueller
	Poggioni-Robbins	Carter	Whipple - Mueller		Gearhart	
					Storjohann	
					Whipple - Mueller	

[Area Resources](#)

Montrose Memorial Hospital 800 S 3rd St, Montrose, CO 81401 **Phone:** (970) 249-2211
San Juan Veterinary Clinic (Emergency) 822 Spring Creek Rd, Montrose, (970) 249-4490
City Market 16400 S Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401 Closes 11PM · (970) 240-3236
Corks Liquor (next to City Market)
Dispensaries – 3 in Ridgway, none in Montrose or Ouray

Dining in Ridgway:

- *Taco del Gnar – Asian Fusion, not Mexican. Highly recommended.
- True Grit Saloon
- Eatery 66

Colorado Boy – Pizza and Beer (only) Very small. Get there early.

Kates – Breakfast

Provisions

El Agave Azul (new)

Dining in Montrose:

Daily Bread Bakery and Café, 346 E Main St, Montrose, Brkfst, Lunch **CLOSED SAT., SUN.**

Horsefly Brewing, 846 E Main St, Montrose

Colorado Boy Pizzeria and Brewery, 320 E Main St, Montrose

Dining in Ouray – See hosts for a list

See you soon! Your
hosts are at site G240

Carolyn Beardshear 317-910-0986 cbshear@gmail.com

Mike Zimmermann 317-557- 4475

Happy Hour Pairings and Interest Groups