



NAME: Mark and Tami Pickles

FAMILY: Erin Pickles is our delightful daughter who is working at Farmers State Bank. We are also grandparents with two boys at 10 years and 1 year old. We also have an 8 year old granddaughter. They live in California with our oldest daughter and her husband.

EMPLOYMENT: I was manager of Design Services at Alpine Log Homes for 21 stressful years. I am now self-employed and the owner of MSTP Concepts Inc. I freelance design custom, one of a kind, commercial and residential log structures as well as timber frame buildings. In retrospect, I waited far too long to step out on my own. My wife Tami is the vice president of operations at Farmers State Bank.

A BIT OF LIFE HISTORY: I became infatuated with Jeeps back in the mid-sixties when, as a teenager, my friends and I four-wheeled the Lake Tahoe area and the hills all around Carson City, Nevada. Many years later following military service, college, a

promising career, marriage, child raising, and all the other things that occupy our lives, I got back into Jeeps on a reminiscent whim. I've been hooked on the process of building and driving my 4x4 even since and enjoy back country outings with my friends.

Tami and I have lived in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley of Montana for the last 27 years and figure we're good for another 27 years if the odds favor us.

4X4 VEHICLES: We own a 1982 Jeep CJ-7 (in pieces), a 1985 Jeep CJ-7 that provided 20 years of excellent off-road adventure, a 2005 Ford F150 4x4, a 2002 Audi Quattro TT (the go-fast car is my wife's ride). Erin drives a 2002 Oldsmobile Alero.

MODIFICATIONS DONE TO YOUR PRESENT RIDE: Our 85 CJ-7 has evolved over the years and has seen many years of off road adventures. The Jeep is powered by a Chevy TBI 350 connected to a tricked-out 700R4 transmission, which feeds power to a Dana 300 t-case that has a heavy duty output shaft assembly. A Dana 44 front end and Dana 60 rear end are packed with ARB air lockers and 4:10 gears. For suspension, the leaf springs were converted to the lengthened version referred to as a Cherokee conversion but are custom vs Cherokee springs and produce a much more comfortable ride quality and superior articulation. I currently run Dick Cepek 35x12.50x15 tires. The Jeep also has custom built nerf bars and roll cage. Comfort is provided by Beard seats that are spring-mounted to the roll cage to soften rough trails. The most recent modification was a complete redo of the interior (now grey and black theme) with a one-of-a-kind center console that I spent a winter building. Best guess is that I have 160 hours into the console. I Herculed the entire interior but felt it looked too utilitarian, so I installed a grey carpet kit. The jeep is covered in a custom paint job that I'm quite protective of and I'm well known for my trail pruning prowess. There are probably a hundred other little things featured on the Jeep.

FAVORITE VEHICLE OF ALL TIME: 1970 Dodge Hemi Challenger and the 1985 CJ-7. It's a toss-up. However, with the recent purchase of the Audi Quattro TT, I am really enjoying German engineering. The car is a joy driving particularly on twisty roads.

IF MONEY WAS NOT A OBJECT, WHAT WOULD YOU DRIVE OFF ROAD: Anything I wanted on my own 10 square mile ranch in the Moab, Utah area. Now, if that's not specific enough, I'd build my own rock buggy for fun and pleasure.

SAME QUESTION BUT ON ROAD: A fully restored 1970 Dodge Hemi Challenger. However, the Quattro TT is a super fun ride. Come to think of it, I'd really enjoy a new Audi R8 with the V10!

FAVORITE TRAIL OR TRAILS: Poison Spider Mesa, Golden Spike, Hell's Revenge, Metal Masher, Steel Bender, and most of the other Moab trails.

TRAIL OR AREA THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO RUN SOME TIME REALISTICALLY: Oregon dunes.

SAME QUESTION BUT UNREALISTIC: Mars! I just love red rocks and a lack of government officials would be refreshing.

FAVORITE TYPE OF FOUR WHEELING: Moab and, of course, treading lightly with finesse.

WHAT OTHER THINGS DO YOU LIKE TO DO: Ski with my college buddy each year, fabricate stuff that comes to mind, ponder life and the choices we make, take long walks, read books, goof around on my computer, engage in home improvement projects, spend time with my lovely wife and family, travel to parts of the world that specialize in palm trees and umbrella drinks.... but hold the tsunamis please.

FUTURE GOALS IN LIFE: I'm considering the possibilities associated with evolving to a higher level of consciousness.

IF YOU COULD BE ANYTHING IN LIFE, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU HAVE: A jet fighter pilot, doctor, mechanist, mechanic, mathematician, scientist, computer whiz, lawyer, philosopher, artist, inventor and anything else I could sink my teeth in because, as Lazareth long said: specialization is for insects.