

The Philnews

NPS's

Favorite Hikes

Plus: Cat attacks & Reminisces

August 10th, 2007 Issue #10

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Photo by Chris Dunn

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On the Cover

The Tooth seen from
Shaefers.
Photo by Liana Court



A hiker looks into the distance from Baldy.

Photo by Chris Dunn

Open the Cage

By Margaret Hedderman, Philnews Manager

In one way or another everyone has been saying goodbye. Slowly, day by day, the Philmont Staff is filtering back into the 'real world.' Ask someone, 'Are you coming back next year?' 'Maybe, I don't know. I'd like to.'

Throughout the course of the summer, the NPS department has accomplished a lot. Every single backcountry camp was visited by either a photographer or a writer, two separate groups finished the Ranger Marathon, and, although it was not officially completed, three NPS staffers filmed and photographed portions of Super Black Death.

This final, real issue of the PhilNews is a compilation of goodbyes. Both Jordon Shinn and Jennifer Peters completed their first summer and now write about their experiences and what Philmont meant to them. Also, with the help of several photographers and videographers, we have piled all of our favorite hikes of the summer together into a massive collection of hikes.

Although this last issue was a big production within NPS, it could not have been done without you – the museums, backcountry camps, services, everyone, all departments. It was a great summer and we're sorry to say goodbye. For my part - it's been fun. Maybe I'll see you next year. I don't know. I'd like to.

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Rayado: Not just about the hike

By Jordon Shinn

The sun is setting at Rayado, and scattered along the gravel drive and green-grass lawn are circles of young people dressed in tan and green class A's tattered with patches of achievement. Emotions run high and nostalgia fills the air, as they hi-five and chest-bump, while others break pride and hug. After 20 days on the trail and, well needed showers, they are finally saying goodbye.

"Guys," one young man says to his friends, pointing to a far-off ridge, "we were up there earlier today." They reminisce.

Then, "Come on Rayado, we got to go, busses are waiting," Rayado Coordinator Tom Hill shouts. If they could, they would do it all over again.

Gradually, they disperse, some loading the busses, while others slowly climb into their parents' SUV's.

"On the road again," one says.

At the start of this summer's first Rayado trek, many of the seven crews' 54 young men and 3 young women were adolescent teens; strangers who, through 20 days of physical, mental and spiritual strain, have come to know each other as family. And now, on day 21, after feasting on a hearty buffalo-meat-goulash dinner and retelling the moments that brought their crews together, they are departing for what may be forever.

"Share your experience with someone who you think should be part of the experience next year," Rayado Coordinator Scott O'Conner instructed the participants, sitting cross-legged on the floor backed by proud family members in the stuffy auditorium.

"These random experiences that you never thought would help you, just brought you together and that's why this was so successful."

And they were random.

"Nothing brings your crew together like a sweat lodge," one participant said.

"We learned it was really hard to light a stove

upside down," another said.

The Rayado program began in the late 1960's as the "Kit Carson Men" and "Kit Carson Women" treks.

"Not much changed," Hill said. "The original was 15 days; they added a week."

But the trek has always been about how it changes the individual.

"It changes lives for the positive by forcing them to live each day in the realm of the unexpected," Hill said. "They don't know their itinerary so it forces them to rely more on their mental and spiritual strength than their physical."

Although much of what the experience is remains a secret, the front page of the RAYADO TREK – 2008 application states, "You will stand on high summits, climb rock faces, hike in the rain, and take the most challenging trails. You will accomplish more than you thought possible. Two Philmont Rangers will help you achieve your dream for adventure."

Yet at the banquet, it was clear that this adventure had only prepared them for the next.

"You need to keep in mind that working on Philmont staff is a wonderful way to spend your summer," Mark Anderson said.

He also spoke words of wisdom, though not just his own.

"Waite Philips had a lot of great things in mind when he gave the ranch to the BSA," he told the audience, "and one of the things he commented on was that Philmont should not be a place for the individual; it should be a place for the many," he said. "I'd like to leave with one quote from Waite Philips that pretty much sums up the experience you've gone through: 'Regardless of ability, no one individual can accomplish anything worth-while without direct or indirect cooperation with others.'"

Dabbled amongst the crowd were other men dressed in beige class A's and creased green pants,

including Keith Galloway, John van Dreese, and Gene Schnell: National Committee members.

"These gold tabs don't mean squat," Schnell said. "Don't let 'em fool you." Like Mark Anderson, he was there to promote.

"I'll come down here and talk to Rayado participants and prepare them for their next adventure, because a lot of these kids will go Staff," he said. "This is a target age group right here for all these programs."

At the national level, the committee promotes four programs as a block: Rayado, Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS), Order of the Arrow Trial Crew (OATC) and Trail Crew Trek.

"Rayado is the premier program of its type in the country," Schnell said. - A program that positively changes lives.

"They all come out here as individuals, but it is amazing to see them at the end of their trek," O'Connor said. "Their like brothers and sisters. It is amazing to see the transformation from day 1 to day 21.

"They know each other's strengths and weaknesses and how to help each other out; they learn how to be selfless, not selfish."

But the trek doesn't just affect the participants.

"You don't have to make a slam dunk to earn their respect," one ranger learned, "you have to be humble."

"People will see how far you've gone by how humble you are, but at the same time, don't forget what you did. There are so many opportunities beyond Philmont." -he had learned the meaning of "humble pride."

But perhaps the deepest insight came from the participants themselves. Sitting atop Mount Phillips and looking out at nature's beauty, participant Tim Leonard wrote, "This mountain will endure for millennia; your life will be over in an instant. But you have in this instant, touched the infinite. Remember to breathe."

54 boys and 8 girls; the second of the summer's two Rayado treks, which left July 17, trekked into base August 5, filthy, smelly and with a 21-day experience they will never forget.

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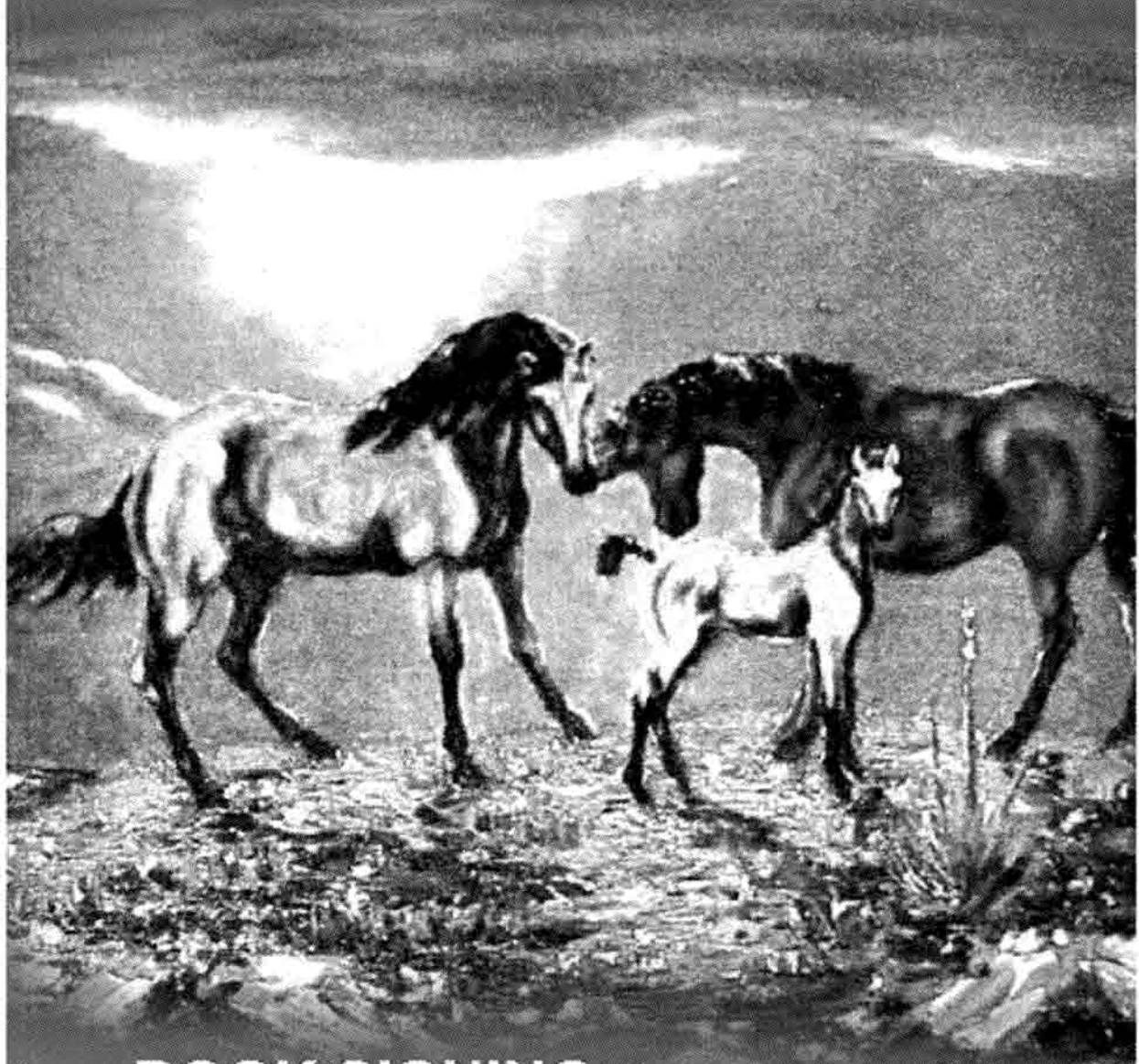
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07 The Philnews - August 10th, 2007



Out There

in the woods...

NPS's favorite hikes
of the summer



Jennifer Peters⁴

Picks of the summer

This summer I have had the opportunity to hike some of Philmont's most beautiful trails. Now with that said, I have not seen all of Philmont and I have not even come close to hiking all of it, but I can tell you some of the trails that I enjoyed hiking.

French to Pueblano is definitely my favorite hike. It is absolutely beautiful and the South Ponil Creek runs right beside the trail giving off this relaxing flowing water ambience.

The area up to and around Cimarroncito is another beautiful place to hike. When I was hiking to Cimarroncito I got a little "misplaced" for a few minutes, but I am so glad that it happened because the trails around Cimarroncito are so beautiful that I got the opportunity to see more than I would have.

The Stockade Trail up to the Tooth of Time was my first hike here at Philmont and I was definitely not prepared for it, but once I got to the top, I

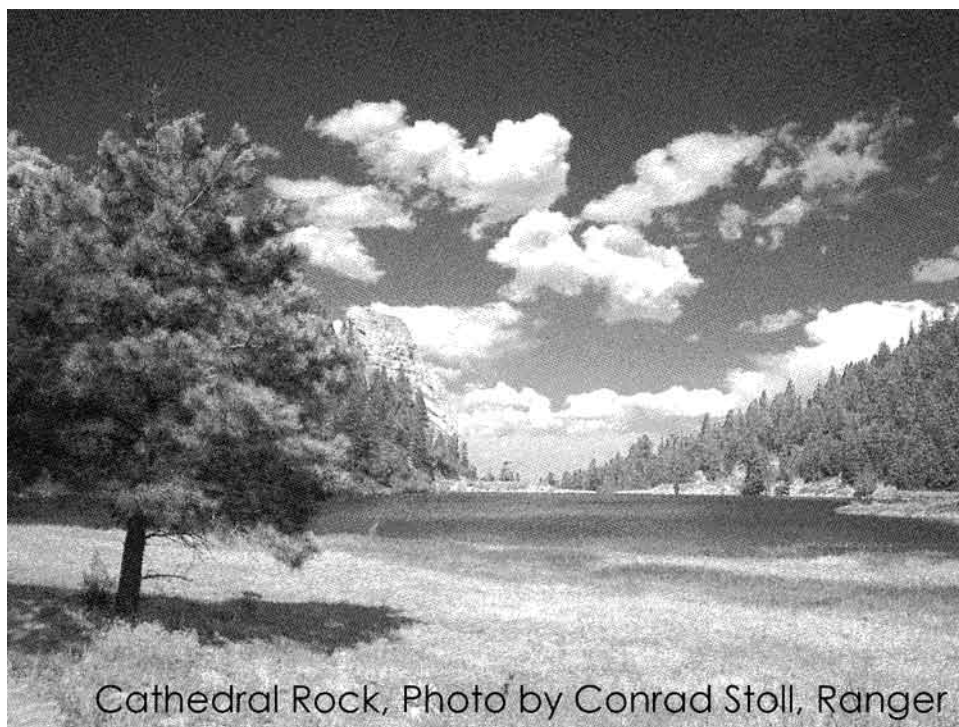
knew that it was worth it. The cool breeze and expansive view make this a great hike and it really gave me a sense of accomplishment for my first hike.

If you are looking for a short, but really tough hike, the hike to Dean Cow is was very strenuous for me. Margaret Hedderman and I hiked this in about an hour and I was definitely sore afterward, but at the

same time it felt really good to push myself that hard that fast. Since it was not too long I was able to sit on the porch at Dean Cow and rest for a good while before the hike back. It is a really good day hike; I just wished that I had left in the morning so I could have rock climbed.

All of the staff at these

camps are extremely nice and accommodating and they really took care of me while I was there, so if you are looking to stay the night somewhere, any of these camps are an excellent choice. Hopefully I can come back next year and have the opportunity to examine more camps and trails.



Cathedral Rock, Photo by Conrad Stoll, Ranger

Choosing my favorite hike(s) at Philmont is no easy task, partly because I have never had to do so and partly because there is so much to consider. What qualifies a hike as a “favorite”? Is a more difficult hike more rewarding than an easy hike, or is it just stupid to take the harder hike? Should I factor in the extent to which I looked forward to my destination, or should I keep the destination separate from the journey? Finally, as a photographer, how large a part should the hike’s scenery and beauty play?

I had to make a list of all the hikes I’ve done this summer, on- and off-property, and somehow I’ve narrowed it down to three Philmont hikes. One is all about the destination, one is all about the journey and the last is a little about each. Next week or month or year, I may not consider any of them to be my “favorites,” but they’re still great hikes.

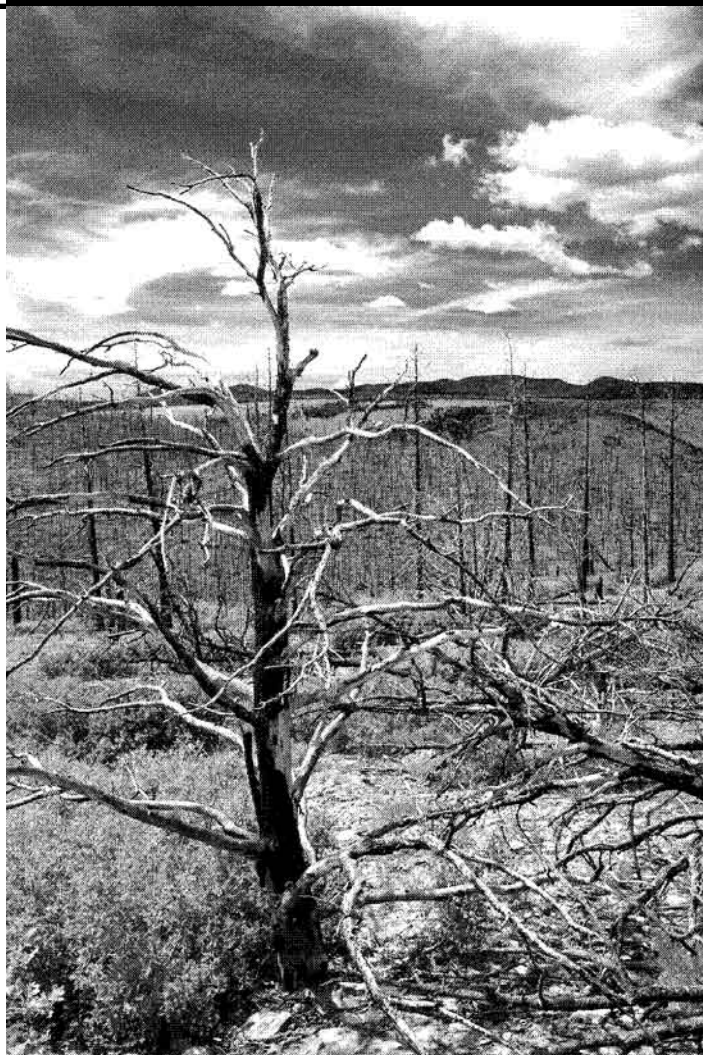
Pueblano to Wilson Mesa

For my fifth hike this summer, I met one of my home crews at Pueblano. Their ranger, Brian DeJager, invited me to join them for their sunrise wilderness pledge at Wilson Mesa the next day. After a moment’s hesitation, I agreed.

The trail from Pueblano to Wilson Mesa is a little steep and fairly rocky, but it’s worth it in every way. That morning, Wilson Mesa became one of my favorite places on the ranch, although technically it’s within the bounds of the Elliot Barker State Wildlife area. From the right vantage point, you can see Baldy clearly reflected in the pond, and the mesa is the most beautiful site of fire damage that I have seen. Tall grass and flowers grow in abundance alongside the blackened and leafless trees, and wildlife teems in and around the pond.

Because this is my last summer here, I’ve tried to avoid repeating hikes and going through the same camps. But, a little more than a month later, I returned to Wilson Mesa via the same route. It’s just that beautiful. For this hike, it’s really more about the destination than anything else.

3 Hikes for Chris Dunn



The recovering burn area near Dan Beard.
Photo by Cal Hiebsch

Dan Beard to Carson Meadows

At the beginning of the summer, I had no intentions of attempting the ranger marathon, but by the beginning of July, I changed my mind. Even so, when my friends and I were relaxing at Dan Beard the night before we set out, I had reservations. Estimations of the marathon's mileage vary between 35 and 45 miles, and I had never hiked for more than five hours in a single day.

Nevertheless, on Friday the 13th, we began the marathon at 4:10 a.m. It went smoothly until we reached Devil's Wash Basin camp, from which we should have taken a staff trail straight to Ute Gulch Commissary. We ended up on a logging road that took us toward Vaca Pond and forced us to take a game trail down to Webster Lake turnaround and, from there, to Cito turnaround and Clark's Fork. Our "detour" between Devil's Wash to Clark's added at least two hours to our time of 19 hours and 35 minutes.

To me, the ranger marathon is the ultimate "it's about the journey, not the destination" hike available at Philmont. Chances are, by the time you reach Carson Meadows and its very hospitable staff, it's at least dusk if not nighttime, so there's no way you can participate in the camp's search-and-rescue program. If you're fast, you might be in time for campfire, but there are easier ways to see Carson's campfire, such as hiking in from Zastrow turnaround.

At any rate, all we did when we arrived at Carson was eat celebratory Tootsie Roll candies before falling asleep on the enormous porch.

The journey, on the other hand, was rife with storytelling material. While dehydration and caloric intake were never issues, we dealt with significant orienteering difficulties, serious chafing and other problems that threatened to discourage us completely. When I think about the ranger marathon, I definitely remember how welcoming Caron's camp director and staff were, but more significantly, I remember how harshly our mental and physical stamina were tested and how we all made it.

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Comanche Pass to Cyphers Mine

Granted, it's not convenient to start at Comanche Pass to get to Cypher's, since you would have to hike up from Black Mountain camp, down from Black Mountain or down from Big Red. Nevertheless, the trail from the pass down to Cypher's is a beautiful one.

The day my friends and I hiked it, the sky was overcast and made the moss-covered woods look a little spooky, but I could see how beautiful they would be in sunlight. Hiking down from the pass before the trail curves around to the north, you're in for a fantastic view of Cito peak and a deep valley. After the trail turns northward, shrub and trees obscure the view, but you can still catch glimpses of a far horizon if you care to look.

The subdued beauty of the trail is only part of the excitement, since you can always look forward to Cypher's Mine. Situated in a steep valley, the camp has only an upward view of the slopes surrounding it, but it's still a beautiful place. Plus, the staff is welcoming and hosts a rowdy, well-orchestrated STOMP every night. It's a great destination at the end of a great hike.



Photo by Chris Dunn

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Making Wheeler a side hike

By Rory Chapman

While the many trails and camps at Philmont give us many hiking and exploring opportunities, my favorite hike lies in the land that surrounds Philmont.

The Williams Lake Trail in Carson National Forest is a popular spot for many who come to North-

ern New Mexico. The challenge of Wheeler Peak draws New Mexicans, tourists, and Philmont Staff to its summit every summer.

As wonderful as standing on the roof of New Mexico is, just hiking to Williams Lake (usually in the afternoon or evening for me) is a peaceful, easy stress releasing journey to a quiet alpine lake complete with waterfalls.

The late afternoon and early morning are the best times if you want peace on the trail; going in the middle of the day gives one the opportunity to meet new hiking buddies. If you want to climb Wheeler, stay the night up there, and make your summit attempt early in the morning.

Not many people spend the night at Williams Lake, only the hardcore of the hardcore, so you can expect a peaceful evening alone. Not only will an early summit beat the afternoon storms but also the crowd.

An added bonus is that after your hike, you can head into Taos for some pizza and a pint of milk.

An icy Williams Lake in early June of this year. Photo by Rory Chapman

Greenwood Canyon

By Cal Hiebsch

From Rich Cabins to the new OATC trail into Copper Park, Greenwood canyon forms one of the more unique hikes available to Philmont staff and campers.

I hiked the trail this last weekend to finish up an assignment shooting program in the Valle Vidal. I wanted to get on top of Baldy one more time during this summer season, and as I was staying at Rich Cabins, the route I had not followed up to Baldy went through the canyon.

Beginning along the middle fork of the Ponil Creek, the Greenwood Canyon trail crosses the Middle Fork and its branch in Greenwood Canyon around eleven times, totaling a little more than twelve miles before reaching the ridge above Copper Park.

With Baldy Mountain as my goal, I was stopped short of the summit by an approaching thunderstorm. But the effort to get through the canyon to Baldy was well worth it. I saw no other hikers during the five-and-a-half hours I spent in the canyon, and most of the footprints had been left the day before by an OATC crew hiking the opposite direction. Cottonwoods and spruce mingled along the creek banks. I also saw a group of hen turkeys and their almost-grown chicks who slowly got out my way, barely disturbed by a solitary figure hiking by.



First Encounter of the Wild Feline Kind

Submission by Liana Court

A rush of movement caught my attention off to my left. A pounding of hooves and the brush kicking up directed my eyes to a doe barreling down the side of the hill less than 20 feet away from me.

As I looked up I saw a mountain lion pounce on the deer and clench its jaws around its neck. The doe choked out a gurgling scream. I froze for half a second just in time to see the cougar roll his prey over and snap its neck. I didn't have time to think or scream; total panic took over my body.

My flight of fear led me back into the campsite where I dropped my pack and scaled to the top of a red roof. I couldn't believe what I had just seen! What was I supposed to do? I was never informed of the proper protocol of what to do when encountering a mountain lion.

Precariously balancing on the roof, I tried to calm down and figure out what my next move would be. Within minutes I heard voices growing louder as they came closer. I started to scream to get their attention to warn them about the mountain cat roaming the trail.

The voices answered back but not with care or concern. They were laughing at me and assumed my screams were a joke to scare them. I climbed down from my vantage point and made my way back up the trail. I was hoping that all the noise had scared the mountain lion away so that I could hike back with group just ahead.

As I approached the trail head, once more I encountered my furry four legged friend. The lion bounded away from it's freshly killed meal up the side of the trail. I caught only a glimpse of its

soot dipped tail. I got even more hysterical then and schwacked my way to the group of hikers just ahead.

I'm not sure if they believed my story but I certainly was scraped up and visibly upset. I hiked back to the Cito turnaround with the group but they obviously took my sighting as anything but serious. Apparently they assumed I was seeing things, but at least they were kind enough to give me a ride back to base.

I immediately went to the NPS office and told my tale. Before I had even finished, the guys in the office were already packing their gear to head back with me to document the cougar's kill for evidence. We found the mangled body of the doe just a few feet from the trail and very close to the campsite. (see picture below)

The first thing people have asked after I tell this story is, "Did you get a picture?" The answer is NO, I did not. I guess I was just a little too busy running for my life to pause for a picture. I realize now that I was probably fine and that running from the cougar could have put me in more danger by triggering its natural instinct to chase.

I will be returned back to the Big Apple this fall with the many new things that my experience in Philmont has taught me, including what to do when encountering a mountain lion... maybe these tips can also be applied to muggers in NYC.



The lion's kill. Photo by Rory Chapman

Kitty Safety Tips

1. Do NOT hike alone, especially during the night or dusk. That's when they usually eat dinner.
2. Back away SLOWLY.
3. Wave your arms around and make lots of noise. They normally will be scared away.
4. Make your self as big as possible.
5. Do NOT run it can trigger the instinct to chase you.
6. If you are attacked fight back with any you can grab a hold of. People have fought off attacks with their bare hands!
7. Protect you neck and back these are spots they normally attack first.
8. If you see a mountain lion you are probably not in to much danger, it is when you don't see them and they are stalking you in the trees is when you are in real trouble.

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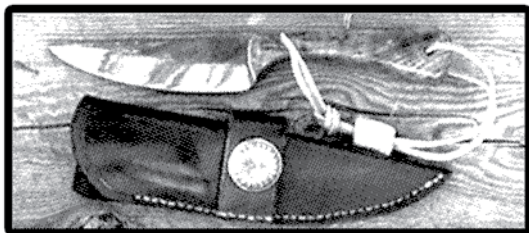
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My eyes flash open, instantly awake, a shudder passes through me.
Not for the cold that has enshrouded me, but for anticipation of the trail ahead of me.
This day, I awoke in darkness, an impossible task awaits.

100,000 steps before me; 100,000 chances for misstep; 100,000 chances to prove myself.

There is a mountain above me; I gird myself. The memories of mountains beneath me flutter past my eyes, mountains that chiseled a spirit from stone.

I meander through the canyon's black, instinct guiding my footfalls. I climb, exposed to the sun, pushing me back. Over rocks, through the rain, saturated trails provide precarious footing.

It was decided long ago I wouldn't be defeated; that I couldn't possibly stumble and fall. I'll rebuild myself faster than you could possibly break me down. I approach one step at a time, forever focused on the one I am about to take.

Pain in my body, determination in my mind, hope in my heart, boots on my feet.

Of all the days from now until then; of all the steps on my hike I may forget,

I assure you, these steps, will not be among them.

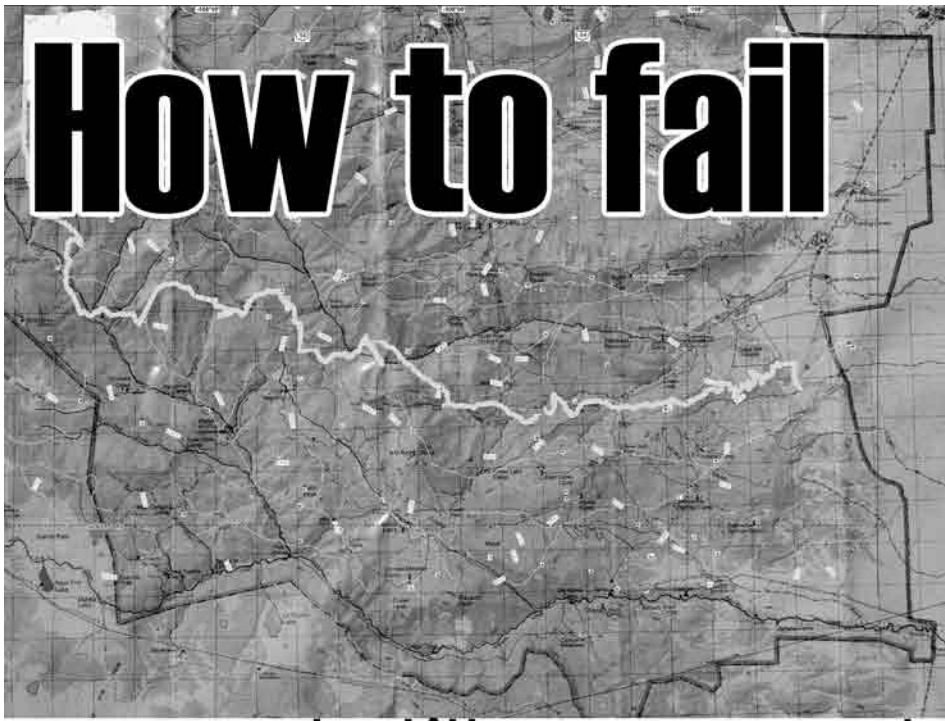
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How to fail

Super Black Death

... and still succeed

By Margaret Hedderman

They asked us, “Why would you do that?” The answer: “Because we can.” Later I asked myself, “Why would I do this? And what is the matter with me?” It became a kind of mantra. Breathe in, breathe out, take a step – Why? Breathe in, breathe out, take another step – Why, why, why? Fifteen miles later, I knew.

Granted, a lot of people hike Super Black Death – presumably because of the enticing name – but when a group of NPS staff took to the trail, the final result was... probably exactly the same as everyone else’s: the inability to walk properly, stand up, move, think...

At 5:00 a.m. I awoke on the cold floor. With no idea where I was, I groped around for the alarm clock hiding elusively behind my ear. I sat up, realized I was in the kitchen of the Clear Creek cabin, swatted the girl next to me in the face, told her to get up, and laid back down, wishing I was still dreaming of the warm beach.

After deciding it was probably bad luck to

*Topo of Super Black Death by
Rory Chapman.*

slap someone in the face, particularly at 5:00 a.m., I apologized to Liana and got packing. We soon met Rory Chapman on the porch.

The morning showed no prospects of ever getting warmer, or dryer, but we lugged our packs on and trudged up the trail. Rory, our gas-propelled videographer, hiked in front as we worked our way up Mt. Phillips. Miraculously, Liana’s face had healed from being viciously slapped an hour ago and she trotted lightly up the mountainside.

There’s been a bit of speculation on what exactly Super Black Death entails – and what the difference is between Black Death, Black Plague... Typhoid... Cholera... Could it be possible that there are too many challenges named for infectious diseases? I’m not going to lie. Our intrepid group of NPS hikers had only a vague idea of the course needed to complete Super Black Death.

Mist hung dank in the moss heavy trees as we picked our way down Mt. Phillips. The view from the mountaintop had been a no go. We had sat, ate breakfast, and took pictures in a cloud before giving up on a grand vista of Philmont and hiking to Comanche Peak.

The cold, damp morning dissipated into a cold, damp afternoon as we passed over Comanche and Big

HELP WANTED

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I have heard and seen it written more than a few times separating Philmont from the “real” world. In the “real” world Tooth of Time Traders is at the top of the list for sales per square footage for single store outdoor retailers. Our selection of outdoor gear and souvenirs changes yearly with new innovations in the outdoor marketplace. As a result, Tooth of Time Traders, has seen a huge increase in sales. A large part of this increase is due to our website sales. On August 3, 2004 at 4:03 p.m., toothoftimetraders.com went live.

The site wasn't perfect but we were off and running with technology that had been long anticipated for the store. We did run a catalog business prior to going live. Since the site's inception off-site sales have increased by 61% leading to almost a ½ million dollars in sales last year. 2007 is shaping up nicely too.

You may be thinking how can Philmont be running a website that is producing a nice profit for the ranch in the “real” world? Well, we have hired very talented staff that showed an interest in web design and management and they agreed to work on the site as a seasonal employee of Philmont through the fall and winter.

It does take quite a lot of talent and some technological expertise to run toothoftimetraders.com but the benefit gained from holding this position may be just the item on a resume to get a coveted position in the “real” world of web design and management.

So, from the title of this article you may think that we are looking for someone to fill this position. You got it! Imagine “real” world experience and still be able to stay and hike the trails and enjoy Philmont Scout Ranch.

Since we went live, 4 staff members have held the position of Web Manager for Tooth of Time Traders: Vaughn Oliver, a retired professor of computer science, got us off the ground and worked for just a few months.

Michael Sutter was next and took us to an entirely new level. He held the position for just over a year before he departed to work for Peter Glenn

Sports, an on-line outdoor gear store. With his experience in this position he was interviewed by Peter Glenn and is in charge of their on-line store with more than 5 employees and yearly sales over \$3 million. He said he would never have been able to get that position without his experience at Philmont Scout Ranch.

Next in line was Jeff Spahr and although he only held the position for 4 months was able to make some significant changes to our site. He then left for a “real” job with Applied Engineering Management as a systems analyst. He said his experience at Philmont was more than he could have hoped for as most web management jobs with the amount of responsibility taken on at Philmont would have required more schooling to even get an entry level position.

Currently serving in the role as web manger is Lonnie Smith, a science teacher from Houston, Texas who was able to jump in to the position and continue to update our site with photos and descriptions of new gear. Lonnie's graphic designs experience has really lent itself well to the quality of our images. Lonnie said if his passion for teaching was lesser, this would be a dream job!!!

So, interested in gaining “real” world experience right here at Philmont?

Job Title:

Tooth of Time Traders Website Developer and Manager

Position Overview:

Develop and maintain toothoftimetraders.com eCommerce website. Provide the customer with a look and feel typical to the Philmont experience. Receive direction from the Trading Post Director to place content, and create an effective website design. Monitor site traffic and performance. Responsible for the digital photography process, taking product photos, manipulating them and placing them on the website. Ability to work independently, and able to provide creative input to website design, functionality and the eCommerce business process.

For more information please contact me, Shelley O'Neill at the Trading Post

The World News

No deal with Taliban (8/06)

Recently at Camp David, President Bush met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai to discuss demands made by the Taliban concerning Korean hostages. On July 19th, the Taliban seized a Christian group of 21 South Koreans from a bus in Ghazni, Afghanistan and have since made demands for a prisoner exchange. Both President Bush and President Karzai agreed to take part in no prisoner exchange. White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe stated that the Taliban would continue taking captives even if their demands were to be met.

Warrant-less wiretaps approved (8/06)

President Bush recently signed a temporary bill that allows the government to eavesdrop on foreign terror suspects without a warrant. All international phone calls routed through the US and internet communications are subject to wiretap. President Bush said "When our intelligence professionals have the legal tools to gather information about the intentions of our enemies, America is safer." Although, during the House session Democrat Zoe Lofgren said, "This bill would grant the attorney general the ability to wiretap anybody, any place, any time without court review, without any checks and balances." Unless renewed, the bill will expire in six months.

Pencil removed from head (8/06)

German Margaret Wegner was four when she fell on a pencil she was carrying. 55 years later, it has been removed. The pencil was lodged in part of her right nostril and brain. At the time, it was feared that removal would be too dangerous. The pencil caused severe head-aches and nosebleeds, but now, after removal, Wegner is head-ache free and can smell again. The procedure was performed in Berlin.

Massive flooding in South Asia (8/07)

Some of the worst flooding in decades has put nearly 40% of Bangladesh underwater and has affected 33 of Nepal's 75 districts. 360 people have died in Nepal, Bangladesh, and India and 20 million people are homeless. Although the waters are receding, there is a massive shortage of supplies and fights have broken out over rumours that local officials have been stealing. Some villages have not seen any form of aid in the last 15 days. Also, there is fear of waterborne disease without fresh water supplies. 34.5 inches of rain fell in 15 days from one of the worst monsoons in years.

Rescue mission for Utah miners (8/07)

Six miners in Utah are trapped in a Utah mine after it collapsed early Monday. Now, rescue attempts are being made by drilling through the mountainside. It's believed that the miners are 1,500 feet below ground. Although no contact has been made, the men should have enough air and water to last several days if they survived the collapse. Experts and Robert Murray of the Murray Energy Corporation disagree over the cause of the collapse. Murray insists an earthquake triggered the disaster, but experts blame the old shafts caving in and causing seismographic evidence. Hundreds of rescue workers continue to work at freeing the miners.

Georgia blames Russia for Missile (8/07)

Georgia's President Mikhail Saakashvili has blamed Moscow for a missile that struck a Georgian village. Although the missile did not explode, President Saakashvili said, "We are waiting for an official explanation from Russia." Russia has denied any part in the incident.

Sports

Barry Bonds Ties Hank Aaron (8/06)

Barry Bonds has tied Hank Aaron's legendary home-run record of 755 amidst rumors of his illegal drug abuse. The drug allegations have the entire baseball community divided on the validity of Bonds' accomplishment. Some fans and players are calling for more action from the Veteran Hall of Fame Committee than just an asterisk besides Bonds' name, while others are concentrating on his triumph instead. Former Bond's Teammate Brian Johnson appeared on ESPN's Outside the Lines and publicly criticized Bonds for his drug use. Johnson also talked about testifying in front of the Mitchell Commission about his knowledge of steroid use and MLB players. Adam Hughes, a plumber from La Holla, California and San Diego Padres' fan, caught Bonds' 755th home run baseball.

Tiger Woods dominates at Firestone (8/06)

Tiger Woods has beat out Rory Sabbatini and won the Bridgestone International for the third year in a row. Now Woods will compete in the PGA Championship at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sabbatini had a fan escorted by police from the course after the fan yelled, "Hey Rory, Still think Tiger is beatable?" The fan was referring to a comment that Sabbatini had made earlier in the year describing Woods as "beatable as ever." Woods responded to Sabbatini's comment by pointing out that he had already won more tournaments this year than Sabbatini's has won in his entire career. Sabbatini later justified his reaction to the fan by saying that the fans should, "let us do our job, have a bit of decorum, have a little bit of class out there." Sabbatini could probably take his own advice on this one.

Women's British Open (8/06)

In St. Andrews Scotland, Lorena Ochoa, won her first major title in the Women's British Open on Monday. Ochoa has been "very positive" in hopes that

she would win at the home of golf. "I saw myself on the 18th green, lifting the trophy," said Ochoa. She has been long overdue a victory, since she has been a runner-up 10 times in the past two years. The Guadalajara, Mexican native tied for second at the U.S. Women's Open at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club in Southern Pines, North Carolina just a little over a month ago. Ochoa, who is the No. 1-ranked player, said of her win on Monday that, "Hopefully this is the first of many (victories) to come. It was my time."

Basketball Trades (8/06)

Jermaine O'Neal of the Indiana Pacers said that he would like to be traded to the Los Angeles Lakers. The Lakers have already tried to sign O'Neal but Indiana has been reluctant to agree without receiving Lamar Odom and Andrew Bynum in return. O'Neal said he would be open to be traded to the New Jersey Nets, but Los Angeles was his first choice. O'Neal said he is looking forward to working with Kobe Bryant if he does get traded; he said that he and Kobe have discussed it a few times this off-season.

McFarland injures knee (8/07)

Anthony McFarland, defensive tackle for the Indianapolis Colts, may be out for part of this season due to a knee injury. An MRI on Saturday showed damage to McFarland's patella tendon, but the need for surgery is still up in the air. The defensive tackle was an integral part of the Colts' Super Bowl win last season and now the team will have to step up to keep the Colts on top.

US Victories at Sweden Track Meet (8/07)

US Olympian and world champion Jeremy Wariner set the year's fastest time for the 400 meters on Tuesday in Stockholm, Sweden at the DN Galan meet. He finished the 400 in 43.50 seconds and is the sixth-fastest overall. American Aries Merritt won the 110 hurdles event with a time of 13.09.

Baseball Stats

As of August 6th

American League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Boston	68	43	0.613		Won 2	7 to 3
NY Yankees	61	50	0.55	7	Won 3	6 to 4
Toronto	56	54	0.509	11.5	Won 3	6 to 4
Baltimore	52	58	0.473	15.5	Won 1	6 to 4
Tampa Bay	42	68	0.382	25.5	Lost 1	4 to 6

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Detroit	62	49	0.559		Lost 2	3 to 7
Cleveland	61	49	0.555	0.5	Lost 5	1 to 9
Minnesota	57	53	0.518	4.5	Won 2	6 to 4
Chicago Sox	52	59	0.468	10	Won 4	7 to 3
Kansas City	48	62	0.436	13.5	Lost 3	5 to 5

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
LA Angels	64	46	0.582		Won 1	6 to 4
Seattle	60	49	0.55	3.5	Lost 2	6 to 4
Oakland	53	59	0.473	12	Lost 1	4 to 6
Texas	48	63	0.432	16.5	Lost 4	3 to 7

National League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
NY Mets	63	48	0.568		Won 1	6 to 4
Atlanta	59	53	0.527	4.5	Won 2	5 to 5
Philadelphia	58	53	0.523	5	Won 1	6 to 4
Florida	52	60	0.464	11.5	Won 2	4 to 6
Washington	51	60	0.459	12	Won 6	8 to 2

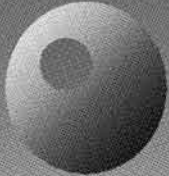
Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Milwaukee	60	52	0.536		Lost 1	4 to 6
Chicago Cubs	58	52	0.527	1	Lost 1	5 to 5
St. Louis	50	58	0.463	8	Lost 5	4 to 6
Pittsburgh	48	63	0.432	11.5	Lost 2	4 to 6
Houston	47	64	0.423	12.5	Won 2	5 to 5
Cincinnati	44	64	0.407	14	Lost 2	3 to 7

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
LA Dodgers	63	50	0.558		Won 3	8 to 2
San Diego	60	50	0.545	1.5	Won 4	6 to 4
Arizona	58	53	0.523	4	Lost 4	2 to 8
Colorado	56	54	0.509	5.5	Lost 2	6 to 4
San Francisco	47	62	0.431	14	Lost 3	5 to 5

Hiking Buddy Needed

Jason "Silver" Caffey from the PTC dining hall needs a hiking buddy to go to from the Cito turnaround to Harlan to go shotgun shooting on either August 11th, 12th, or 13th.

Contact via I-Camp.




LUKE...

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Contribute to the Philnews. We accept feature stories, short stories, cartoons, and poetry by i-camp, in person at the NPS office, by phone ext. 246, or email at philnews@gmail.com!

The Girly Girl zips

it up

By Jennifer Peters

This has been the best summer of my life, and if the legend is true, then when I am leaving I will look over my left shoulder at the arrowhead rock formation on Tooth Ridge and I will be destined to return.

I have not even left yet and already “I want to go back to Philmont”. I never understood my father’s unconditional love of Philmont and his ability to talk for hours on the subject. I must have heard his stories a million times before, but now I am completely enamored with them. I could sit and listen to him talk forever and I am so proud that we have something to share for the rest of our lives.

The experiences I have had so far may last me for the rest of my life, but I am not ready to leave it behind. The only Philfling I have had this summer is with the land, the only flirtations are the possibility of coming back summer after summer.

I have only scratched the surface of what Philmont is and what it has to offer and I will not be content until I have seen everything and met everyone. I have developed that unconditional love my father always talked about.

When I am driving away from Philmont on August 13, the only possession I will leave behind is my heart, buried somewhere deep in the backcountry.

I have learned more about myself and what I

am truly capable of doing this summer than in all of my previous summers combined. I know now that I have the strength to completely rely on myself, but the knowledge to know when to ask for help. My first week at Philmont was terrifying, I did not know anyone and I was extremely homesick. It was my first summit of the Tooth of Time that I realized I could make it. My body was incredibly out-of-shape and my breathing was labored, I wanted to stop about

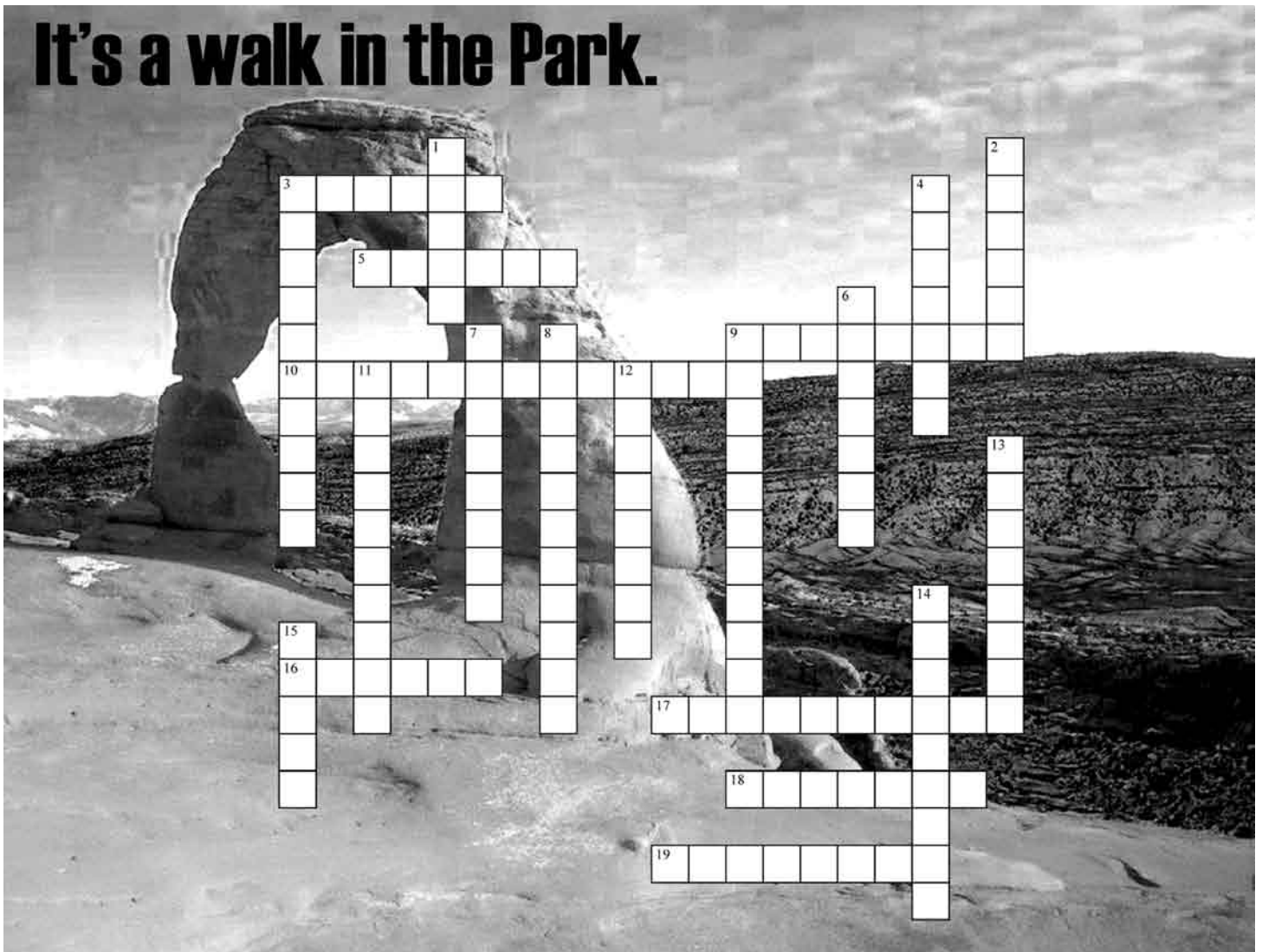
two-thirds from the top, but my crew of NPS staff members would not let me quit. Once I reached the top and I took one look over Tooth ridge, I was hooked. I laid my pack down and had one of those moments in life that quiets all of my doubts and leaves me with the feeling that everything in my life is on track. I was on

the path that God had laid out for me and that kind of reassurance is exactly what I needed.

This self proclaimed girly-girl has finally put on her “man suit,” and now she’s ready to face the world with new eyes and fight her way back to the top of the mountain. I will always remember the memories I’ve made this summer and as I’m looking over my left shoulder, I will pray that I will go back to Philmont.



It's a walk in the Park.



ACROSS

- 3 This lake was not colonized by loggers, no matter what they tell you.
- 5 The first National Park east of the Mississippi.
- 9 Nearly 1,200 miles of wilderness.
- 10 The 'painted rock' river.
- 16 Better than the Golden ones.
- 17 Home of the Florida panthers.
- 18 Birthed here was the 16th President.
- 19 What would you do for this park?

DOWN

- 1 Named for a peninsula, fjords, and a river.
- 2 America's hot spot.
- 3 A rock wonderland in Arizona.
- 4 Rivers of ice and road to the sun.
- 6 Leave the Toyota at the gate.
- 7 Avoid this dentist.
- 8 Industrialists need syrup on waffles too.
- 9 The first National Park.
- 11 The largest state park in America.
- 12 Maybe you'll find buried treasure here.
- 13 Bruce Springsteen must have come here.
- 14 The Great House of New Mexico
- 15 Your dad's island.

4							5	
7				8			3	
3				1	2		6	7
		4	6		9	8		
		2	8		3	1		
		6	1		4	7		
2	8		7	3				4
	4			6				9
	5							2

Provided by Daily-Sudoku.com

		7	4	1				5
		3	2					7
		6	8					1
	5			9			1	
	1						8	
	2			3			4	
9					7	1		
8					1	2		
4				2	6	3		

Provided by Daily-Sudoku.com

Last Week's Crossword



2			4	1	7	6		8
						3	1	
		6		5				7
		4				8		
7				3		9		
	5	1						
3		8	1	9	6			2

Provided by Daily-Sudoku.com

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Turn north at the blue bridge,
right at the corner, look for the sign
3 blocks on the right.

PSA Scholarship 2007

This year the PSA will give out five \$1000 scholarships. The purpose of the scholarships is to assist current staffers coming back next year that might need more money for school than what a Philmont salary provides.

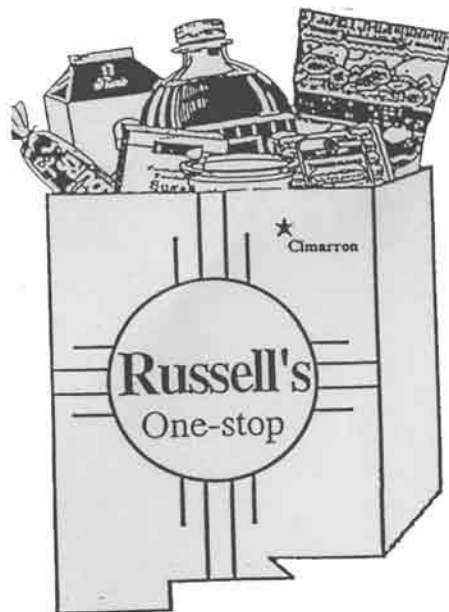
Requirements

1. Must complete the application and the rest of the requirements by August 21. In the application, the selection committee is specifically looking at the two short answer essays and the recommendation from the applicant's current Philmont manager.
2. Must be a current PSA member. If the applicant is not a member, please see the information on page 06 of the *PhilNews*.
3. Must be a current 2007 staff member.
4. Must turn in a 2008 Philmont Staff Application before leaving the Ranch for the summer.
5. The selection committee meets September 15-17 to make the decisions
6. The scholarship goes directly to the educational institution, usually in October.
7. If the applicant is working in the backcountry, he or she can I-camp the PSA to request an application.
8. Previous winners can apply if they meet all of the above requirements.

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Philmont Fall & Winter Staff Opportunities

Don't want to leave? Why not work at Philmont through the year!

Camping Headquarters is currently accepting applications for positions with the Autumn Adventure Program Staff, Philmont Training Center Staff, Program Staff, Trading Post Staff, Dining Hall Staff and Kanik Winter Program Staff. Applicants must be over 21 years of age at the start of their contract. Application forms are available at CHQ and should be **completed and returned by Friday, July 27, 2007.**

Staff for **Autumn Adventure** will need to be available from approximately September 1 through October 31. Autumn Adventure is a Fall program that allows crew to plan a customized itinerary and hike the backcountry with a staff guide. Staff applicants who are also available to work the winter Kanik program are preferred.

Staff for **Kanik** will need to be available for training November 1 through 7, and for staffing the program from December 27 through March 31. Kanik is Philmont's cold weather camping program and includes ski touring, snow shelter building, snow camping, winter ecology, hiking, use of winter tools and equipment.

Additionally, staff is needed for Tent Crew (August 22 through 31,) Trading Post, Dining Hall, Training Center, Photo Archivist, and Wrangler.

This is a great opportunity to be a part of the "behind the scenes" action that makes the Philmont magic come alive. Applicants should understand that they will be expected to perform many different duties if hired for these positions. Please contact Barbara Garcia or John Van Dreesse at Camping Headquarters for an application or for more information.

Leaving Early

"If I leave earlier than my contracted last day, does it hurt my chances of getting hired next year?" Yes, it very well may hurt your chances of being rehired, depending on the reason for your early departure and whether or not you followed Philmont's procedures. If you must leave earlier than specified in your Terms of Seasonal Employment, you must provide written documentation from your school or employer. Leave early requests must be submitted by July 31 for consideration. Legitimate reasons for an early departure include: education, dormitory responsibility, school activity or job.

Any staff member who wishes to depart Philmont before August 10 is required to write a letter of resignation to accompany the Early Leave Request form. Such request may jeopardize chances for re-employment, job choices, or recommendations, depending on the reasons given. Because the person you rode out here with is leaving early is not necessarily a valid reason for you to leave early. There are over 1,000 staff currently employed at Philmont and they come from all parts of the country... so look into sharing a ride with someone else or check into the availability of public transportation through our Logistics staff before you request an early leave. Early Leave Requests forms are available through the personnel office at Camping Headquarters.





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Tim and Susan McCoy, Proprietors

The Overall Feeling of Philmont

By Jordon Shinn

On Monday, August 6, I left my job at News and Photo to get ready for my first year of college at Oklahoma State University. Originally, my contract was to end on the 20th. Needless to say, my summer ended sooner than expected. It always does.

As I acclimate to college life, here at OSU, taking on marching band, the school newspaper, and other activities, I can't help but wonder how Philmont has affected me.

Never having been on a trek, this summer was my first year at Philmont. It was awesome being behind the scenes, not just a participant. However, I was a participant in many ways.

My summit of Baldy Mountain and trudging through the Ranger Marathon with my friend, NPS Manager, Dave Counts are moments I will never forget, and what I believe Philmont is all about.

Before this summer, I had never climbed a mountain. My first hike up the Tooth of Time was an experience that really changed my life in ways words can't describe. At the very least, I can say I was humbled seeing mountains 100 miles away in Colorado, and birds fly off the summit; where they were not five feet off the ground, to suddenly thousands of feet in the air in a matter of seconds.


But it is all behind me now.

After this summer, Dave is going to Alaska to be a "District Executive" for the new scout camp up there, where he signed away three years of his life. Perhaps our paths will cross in the future.

And so now, I wonder what that future has in store for me. Will I come back here? Or will I move on to another scout camp like Seabase or Northern Tier? Maybe I won't return to a scout camp at all. I don't know, but I'm not worried either.

Perhaps the only thing I am worried about is losing the sweet memories of the people I met here at Philmont this summer. There are so many. Surely, time will take its toll, as I forget names and faces, specific events and happenings, until all that I remember of Philmont is merged into one overall feeling. Even so, I know it will be a good one.

In short, this has been the greatest summer of my life. Especially when I recall that last year I was slaving away at the local Taco Bell. Nothing beats waking up to the beautiful mountains here at Philmont, even if I do live in a tent. And my only regret would be that I haven't climbed them all. But maybe some day I will.



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Taking Philmont Home with You

Submission by Chaplain Leo Symmank

As God's prize creation we have been honored above every living thing. In the first chapter of Genesis we find out mission statement: "Fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over... every living creature."

The whole earth is God's gift to us. That includes Philmont. God has put us in charge of taking care of planet earth. This includes all plant and animal life. It also includes caring for each other. To do this is to honor our Creator. We have been doing this very thing at Philmont.

Soon it will be time for us to return to our other home. Some of us wish we could stay a bit longer. Why not take the Philmont experience home with you and enjoy Philmont for four seasons. Take what you have learned at Philmont and share it with others.

Here are a few options:

1. Volunteer at your state parks and wildlife department.
2. Some states have a master naturalist program. Inquire at your state parks and wildlife division and your state agricultural university about such programs.
3. Join a photography club. Expand your skills for next year at Philmont.
4. Be a part of a local rappelling group.
5. Join a fly fishing club.
6. Check out the riding stables. Volunteer to help.
7. Check the internet for groups that are active

in your local areas.

The possibilities are endless. They offer opportunities to grow in your interest area. Expand your interest into new areas. All can equip you for greater service. Serving others increases your skills in serving at Philmont or in your community. Most of all it reflects the spirit of God, your Creator, working through you. It honors his name. It is a way of thanking God for his gifts of creation, for his mercy and forgiveness when we mess up in our relationship with others and our environment. It becomes our thank you to God for all those people who serve, forgive and love us.

So here is my wish, know my confidence in you, that you will this year discover your own trails for backpacking the Philmont experiences right into your own community. God bless you in your service to and with others. Celebrate Philmont in all four seasons.

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Important! Payroll Info

YOUR LAST WORK DAY AND FINAL PAY-CHECK

WHEN YOU SIGN FOR YOUR PAYCHECK, CHECK THE STOP DATE (YOUR LAST WORK DAY) PRINTED BY YOUR NAME.

IF THIS IS NOT THE DATE YOU HAVE ON YOUR CONTRACT OR REQUESTED ON THE EARLY LEAVE REQUEST FORM, YOU NEED TO SEE BARBARA AT CAMPING HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL OFFICE.

TELLING YOUR SUPERVISOR OR FILLING OUT THE EARLY LEAVE FORM DOES NOT ENSURE THE CHANGE HAS REACHED THE PERSONNEL OFFICE. FAILURE TO HAVE THE CORRECT LAST WORK DAY MAY CAUSE YOUR LAST PAYCHECK TO BE DELAYED BY AS MUCH AS 30 DAYS.

THE DAY ON THE PAY ROSTER IS YOUR LAST WORK DAY.

IF YOUR LAST WORK DAY FALLS BETWEEN:

JULY 16 THRU JULY 30
AUGUST 1 THRU AUGUST 14
AUGUST 16 THRU AUGUST 30

YOUR FINAL PAYCHECK WILL BE MAILED TO THE ADDRESS ON YOUR CHECK. THIS SHOULD BE A PERMANENT ADDRESS, NOT A SCHOOL ADDRESS. YOUR W-2 WILL ALSO BE SENT TO THIS ADDRESS.

FOR ALL OTHER STAFF, PAYDAYS WILL BE:

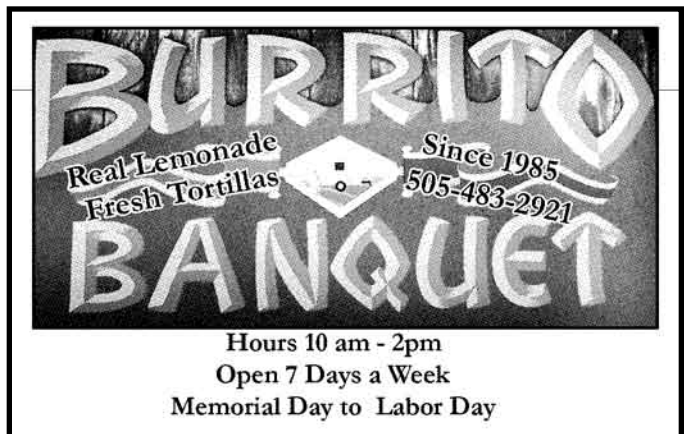
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15
FRIDAY AUGUST 31

IF YOUR LAST WORK DAY FALLS ON ONE OF THESE DATES, PICK UP YOUR CHECK AT YOUR WORK PLACE OR THE PAYROLL OFFICE, CHQ.

REMEMBER, ALL STAFF (CAMPING AND TRAINING CENTER) MUST CHECK OUT THROUGH THE PERSONNEL OFFICE AT CAMPING HEADQUARTERS. FAILURE TO FOLLOW CHECK OUT PROCEDURES MAY RESULT IN A DELAY IN PROCESSING YOUR FINAL PAY-CHECK.

Notice

PTC holds its daily flag ceremony from 8 to 8:30 in the morning and from 5 to 5:30 in the afternoon. Please do not drive vehicles on Orchard Circle at that time. It is really distracting for the people that are trying to enjoy the ceremony. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but we would really appreciate it if you would wait just a little while.



cont. from pg. 17

Red. We walked past a line of abandoned Scout packs at the base of Big Red just before losing the trail. It was gone. Vanished. Liana and I mourned our loss, but Rory, the geocaching phenom, whipped out his GPS and started setting waypoints. Somehow our normal, sane-person adventure had turned into a geocaching expedition for the missing trail.

We found the poorly defined trail exactly where the satellites said it would be and continued on. Thus far, we had been able to ignore our ignorance of the challenge and put some miles on our blistering boots, but a decision approached. Climb Bear Mountain, or not... The decision wasn't hard. It was rainy, and we were kind of cold, and our feet hurt, and we tired, wanted to go home, boo hoo. Let's skip it. And while we're at it, let's just skip Shaefers and the Tooth.

The daring, death-defying adventure that was supposed to prove our worthiness to all hiking kind had failed. Miserably. Not only did we botch up our attempt at Super Black Death, but also finished the day with a completely unremarkable time. Then I remembered what the Scouts had asked me on top of Mt. Phillips, "Why would you do that?" Because we can. We still can – I'm sure of it. Although we bailed out on Super Black, a long, intense hike over four mountains in the cold rain was still accomplished. Perhaps it's a new challenge. How about Scarlet Fever?

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