

# The PhilNews

A detailed topographic map of the Valle Vidal region, showing contour lines, roads, and geographical features. Three specific locations are highlighted with hand-drawn circles: Whiteman Vega in the upper center, Ring Place in the lower left, and Seally Canyon in the lower right. The map also shows the National Forest Service McCrystal Campground, Cerrososo Road, and the Hart River.

## THE VALLE VIDAL:

*Ring Place, Seally Canyon,  
Whiteman Vega and much more...*

ISSUE 3 • JUNE 20, 2008

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**The PhilNews is a staff newsletter published weekly by Philmont Scout Ranch.**

#### On the cover:

Hey-o, it's the Valle Vidal. You should visit. (*map*)

From the desk: Editor's Note

## Valle, sweet Valle

There is a cartoon video on the Internet with which many of you, I'm sure, are familiar. It's called "Charlie the Unicorn," and near its beginning, two unicorns are trying to persuade the protagonist to journey to Candy Mountain.

"It's a land of sweets and joy and joyness," says one.

Such is the Valle Vidal. It's pretty sweet, and all the staff at each camp have a certain kind of "joyness" about them. Seally Canyon Camp Director Kat Kallal was ecstatic upon the arrival of her camp's first crew of the summer. Whiteman Vega Program Counselor Kurt Nelson possesses an indomitable energy, whether he is playing soccer or ultimate Frisbee, or biking on the trail. And it is impossible to forget the frenzied ritual chant that the Ring Place staff shout before playing Hungry Hungry Hippos:

*Feel the rhythm! Feel the rhyme! Get on up! It's hippo time!*

I'd never been to the Valle before, except last year to hike Little Costilla, and I was nervous about not being able to rely on established trails to get around. But in my first evening in the Valle, I met the Valle's first crew, 608-J. My itinerary happened to match theirs, so I spent the next day and a half getting to know them as we went to all the staffed camps. It was a great opportunity to spend that much time with a crew as we were all in the Valle for the first time.

I learned a lot. I learned that you're in good hands if a mini-bear attacks you from behind while you're at Seally. I learned that the Ring staff will bring out the telescope in daylight in order to show crews the only visible star (the sun). I learned that biking the trail at Whiteman requires a fully-zipped mansuit.

I don't know if I'll have the chance to visit the Valle again this summer. But I highly encourage you to do so. It's pretty sweet.

Sincerely,  
Chris

*Please be aware that the views expressed in this column, as well as others printed in this issue, do not necessarily represent those of The PhilNews, Philmont Scout Ranch or the Boy Scouts of America.*

**CORRECTION:** An info box on pg. 25 in Issue 2 stated that worship at the United Methodist Church is at 10:30 a.m., that worship at First Baptist Church has a second time at 7 p.m. and that there is mass at First Baptist Church at 6 p.m. These are all incorrect. You may view the correct information on pg. 27. The PhilNews regrets these errors, and urges readers to report other such errors that they may find in this publication.

# Be Prepared: the motto of the Boy Scouts

**submission by Mark Anderson**

*Director of Program*

At 6:35 p.m. on June 11, a tornado touched down at Little Sioux Scout Ranch in rural western Iowa, near the Nebraska border. There were 94 Scouts participating in a youth leadership training course guided by a staff of 25 Scouts and adult leaders.

The day before the disaster, the entire camp conducted a tornado drill to help them **Be Prepared**. This was very important, as the area was expected to experience dangerous weather conditions throughout the training program.

With very little warning, the alarm was sounded, and the Scouts and leaders moved to areas of safety. Many moved to the dining hall and took cover under tables to wait out the rapidly moving storm. The powerful storm struck, destroying most of the buildings and trees of the camp.

Four Scouts were killed by the storm, and 38 were injured. All of the others immediately went to

work assessing and treating the injured, determining the location of everyone in the camp and beginning to move everyone to safe areas. It was several hours before outside help could arrive to support the camp. No moments were wasted by those at the camp; they knew what to do. They were **Prepared**.

We are flying the Philmont Flag at the CHQ Dining Hall at half-mast in memory and honor of those who experienced this natural disaster. We mourn the lives lost and injuries suffered.

By flying the flag in this manner, we desire to stay connected throughout the summer with the Scouts, Scouters and family members of those who were affected as well as all members of the Scouting Family in the Mid-America Council headquartered in Omaha, Neb.

Let us never forget the motto of the BSA: **Be Prepared**. And help us to be ready as the Scouts and Scouters were at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch, when an emergency arises. Already this summer, many of you have been called to action. Thank you for being **Prepared**.

## Attention, Rodeo participants!

Issue 5 of The PhilNews (available on July 3) will be the Rodeo/Cattle Headquarters Issue. In a continuation of tradition, The PhilNews would like to recognize all Philmont staffers who are participating in the 85th annual Maverick Club Rodeo in

Cimarron, as well as the events in which they will be involved.

If you will be participating in any of the Rodeo events, please fill out the form below, cut it out and I-camp it to The PhilNews. Thanks for your help!

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dept.:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check off the events in which you will be participating:*

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bull Riding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Wild Cow Milking</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pole Bending</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>(First Session)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Calf Roping</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Wild Horse Race</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Open-Team Roping</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cow Pony Race</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mixed Ribbon Roping</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ranch Bronc Ride</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Junior Barrel Racing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bull Riding</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Century Roping</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saddle Bronc Riding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>(Second Session)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Senior Barrel Racing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Calf Scramble</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Slack for Team Roping</b>

**How many years have you been rodeoing?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What was your best time in your best/favorite event?** Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Event: \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you won any awards before? In what?** \_\_\_\_\_

# Philmont fire restrictions update

**submission by Mark Anderson**

*Director of Program*

The Fire Restrictions that were issued on May 28, 2008, by the Colfax County Fire Marshal are still in effect. This is an Open Fire Ban.

Since the Open Fire Ban was issued, the fire danger has continued to worsen. We have raised the fire danger rating at Philmont Scout Ranch to Level 5 – Extreme.

This is the result of the continued lack of rain and moisture, high winds and very low humidity. Many days over the last few weeks have been at single digit humidity levels.

Each of us should exercise extreme caution while we are doing any activity that could result in starting fires. These activities include: cooking on a camp stove, driving a car, leading approved program activities or cooking on a cabin wood burning stove.

## The Short Report

**submission by Efrem Lirtzman (5' 6")**

*Program Counselor at Sawmill*

Since I arrived at Philmont, I have become aware of a type of prejudice rampant among the staff. This bias is made worse as I have often heard the targets of discrimination denigrate themselves. I am, of course, talking about being short. Many might call it "vertically challenged," but I contend it is actually an advantage! Here are a few reasons why short is the way to be.

1. You can fit comfortably in every Philmont bed.
2. Never bump your head in the doors of interpretive cabins.
3. Will never be the first struck by lightning.
4. Can stand in the shade easier (just stand next to someone taller).
5. Philmont showers are high enough for you to stand under.

These are just a few of the benefits of being short; there are many more. So the next time you look at someone shorter than you, just remember: maybe you are the vertically challenged one.

## Swing dancing lessons taught by A.J. Boyd

Ever wanted to learn to swing dance? Ranger Trainer A.J. Boyd will begin teaching East Coast-style swing dancing on Saturday, June 21, in the PTC Assembly Hall (Dining Hall 1 area). Weekly lessons will begin two weeks following (allowing a break for LDS Weeks at PTC).

Lessons are 7:30-8:30 p.m., and the following dance will be 8:30-10 p.m. Intermediate lessons in the Lindy Hop will begin mid-summer.

## I-Camp: The PhilNews @ NPS

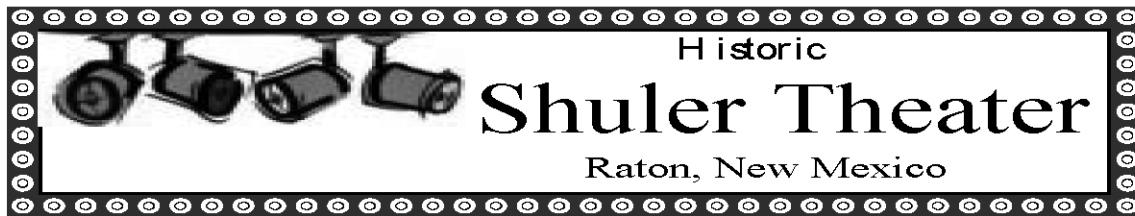
*Subject: Maverick Club Rodeo participant*

# Philmont Scout Ranch Fire Restrictions

as of May 29, 2008 — still current

**Based on the Colfax County Open Fire Ban, Philmont has implemented the following fire restrictions for the 2008 camping season:**

- No smoking along trails or trail camps!
- Smoking is restricted to designated areas:
  - CHQ = Advisors Lounge or Staff Lounge Dining Fly or Staff Dining Fly between Male and Female Tent City.
  - PTC = East Tent City Pavilion.
  - Within vehicles equipped with ashtrays while on paved roads or surfaced roads only.
  - Designated area at backcountry staffed camps.
- Open fires and fireworks are prohibited. Camp stoves may be used in campsite fire rings or immediately adjacent on bare ground.
- Campfires in designated fire rings are prohibited.
- Program campfires (base and backcountry) are prohibited. Propane campfires in base camp and kerosene lanterns in the backcountry will be permitted.
- Blacksmith forges and black powder shooting at designated ranges will be permitted unless otherwise notified.



**Professional Repertory Theater**

## June 26, 27 - The Odd Couple

With its beginnings on Broadway, this version of the Neil Simon play, directed by Barbara Farrar, features newcomer Weldon Durham as the grouchy, sloppy Oscar and Shuler favorite, J. Michael Craig as Felix, the compulsive neat-nik.

## June 28 - Last Train to Nibroc

This tender, poignant comedy starts in the 1940's after World War II. The young woman meets the young man on the train and find they are both from Corbin, KY (Nibroc spelled backwards). Tom Evans directs longtime Shuler actor Vinnie Gumlich, as the returning soldier and newcomer Megan Bowers as the young woman.

8:00 pm \$14 adults - \$12 seniors - \$5 students

Or buy a book of 10 for \$100 for the good for the entire summer season.

131 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Raton, NM 87740

575-445-4746  
bill@shulertheater.com

*The Conservationist*

# All R's are not created equal

All of us are familiar with “the three R’s”: a concept as much a part of any American’s childhood as French Fries, Smokey the Bear and the *Land Before Time*. Although this successful ad campaign has done a great deal of good in its time, the lesser known R’s – Reduce and Reuse – are often overshadowed by their overachieving older sibling: Recycle.

According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, recycling in the state has helped keep 100 million tons of waste out of landfills between 1990 and 1998, an impressive statistic which leaves us vigilant recyclers with a sense of accomplishment.

However, the danger in recycling is that it does nothing to combat over consumption. In fact, instead of being used to “close the loop” and put back into circulation the few resources, we have had to utilize as a part of a frugal lifestyle, it can serve as a frightening justification for single use items such as bottled water, soda cans and virgin paper.

During college, I became active in my school’s environmental club. Our main focus that first year was to help bring recycling to our campus. After some research, we came across a program initiated by the state of Pennsylvania to increase recycling among its colleges and universities. The result was long hours and heavy canvassing done by our club to remain competitive.

Despite the pay-off of convincing the student body to drop their Gatorade bottles in the recycling bins, I began to question my sense of accomplishment after being asked some critical questions by a particularly intuitive professor of mine. Where do all these bottles and cans go? Do they magically transform into a fleece jacket and sail into the display window of the nearest Patagonia retail store?

The fact is that your recyclables often undergo a long and toilsome journey, traveling hundreds of miles by truck to a recycling facility where they are melted

down to a point at which they can be transformed into a new item and then shipped hundreds of more miles to be returned to the market they had once been a part of. Every stage of this process involves waste and environmental consequences.

## Energy required to make packing materials (BTUs per gram of material)

<b>Recycled Glass</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Recycled Unbleached Paperboard</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Virgin Glass</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Recycled Aluminum</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Recycled HDPE</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Virgin Unbleached Paperboard</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Virgin HDPE</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Virgin Aluminum</b>	<b>182</b>

(Information from Daniel Imhoff’s  
*Paper or Plastic*)

Although recycled materials require significantly less energy, they serve as no match for eliminating production altogether. We can greatly alleviate this problem by being more conscious of our consumption, choosing to buy more in bulk or considering supplementing with home-grown foods (farming, hunting, etc.)

Look to the next column for some ways we can make this a realistic option for folks of all economic and geographic situations.

For question or issues you would like to see addressed in future columns of “The Conservationist,” please I-Camp Chris Ives @ Cons.

*“The Conservationist” is a weekly column by Environmental Educator Chris Ives.*

*The gross heathenism of civilization has generally destroyed nature,  
and poetry, and all that is spiritual.*

— John Muir

*From the Ranger Department*

## Three-day backcountry adventures

No matter what department you work in, having three days off is a great opportunity to explore the Philmont backcountry. Trying to plan out a route though can be daunting. Where to go? How is it possible to combine some great programs, fantastic views, and awesome hiking?

The following itinerary ideas may inspire you to create an exciting backcountry adventure of your own.

### South Country

From Zastrow Turnaround, hike the new trail to Zastrow camp, where the staff can run you through the "Indiana Jones Training Course" for orienteering. Continue up to Abreu and enjoy a cup of root beer at the cantina, before hiking up to the start of the Rayado Canyon and the Notch, which offers a sweeping view of Abreu, the south side of Urraca Mesa and the plains to the east. Continue along the canyon rim trail to Fish Camp to spend the night.

The next day, hike up towards Phillips Junction, then swing over to Beaubien for a shorter rest day, as well as an opportunity to check out the campfire.

For Day Three, hike into Base via Trail Peak, which offers a view of Beaubien and the wreckage of a B-24D Liberator, which crashed on the mountain during World War II. Hike down to Fowler Pass, down to Crater Lake, on to Lover's Leap and into Base Camp.

### Central Country

This hike offers plenty of challenge for those who want to cover a lot of distance and elevation. Begin at the Cito turnaround and hike to Cathedral Rock Camp and the Cito Reservoir. Continue on to the Hunting

Lodge and hike on toward Cyphers' Mine camp. The North Fork hike through the canyon offers a trail that sticks close to the stream, and lush vegetation on either side.

After a night enjoying the Stomp at Cyphers', continue on the next day up to Thunder Ridge, up to Comanche Peak Camp, Big Red and down to Black Mountain camp.

For your final day, there are two options. Either hike into Base via Black Mountain, Shaefer's Peak, and Tooth Ridge, or hike the North Fork Urraca Creek all the way to the reservoir above Base.

### North Country

From the Ponil turnaround, follow the trail north through the Middle Ponil Canyon to Rich Cabins, making sure to make a quick stop at Ponil Camp for a cup of root beer at the cantina, and to brand your boots.

For Day Two, hike up and over Wilson Mesa, where the trail passes through an old burn area from a forest fire, and the lake on the south side of the mesa has a beautiful view of Baldy Mountain. There is also the grave of a horse near the lake. Drop down into Pueblano to spend the night and enjoy a game of loggerrball and the campfire.

On Day Three, hike back to Ponil to catch the bus back to Base Camp, either through the South Ponil Canyon, or by hiking up to Head of Dean and following the ridge back to Ponil.

*"From the Ranger Department" is a weekly column by Ranger Trainer Bill Sassani.*



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*Highlight on the 27,391 Reasons We Are Here*

## Our Scouting family

On a dark cloudy night, storms rolled into a summer camp. As the storms raged throughout the night, the participants and staff sprang into action when thunderstorms grew into tornadoes. In the aftermath, four youth were found dead. They were my brothers – and yours.

On the night of Wednesday, June 11, the Scouting *family* experienced a tragic loss. Four youth died in the wake of the storms crossing Iowa at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch, where over 90 other Scouts were involved.

This week, I want to remind all of us of the importance of the Scouting family. From helping each other look for lost keys in the dark to being a pillar of strength in tragic times, our Scouting family can be one of the greatest resources we have.

Though I knew none of the affected individuals personally, I am sure there are participants and/or staff here who did. I know if I received a call that friends or family members of mine had been in such an event, I would be devastated. So I encourage anyone who is aware of people involved with the Iowa tragedy to reach out with a helping hand, a shoulder to lean on or merely be someone who can listen.

I see Philmont as my summer home, and partici-

pants as out-of-town family coming to visit. Let us treat these “out-of-town” guests as the long-lost cousins we have been waiting all summer to see.

Our Scouting family, much like our families at home, have shared many of the same experiences that we have also experienced throughout life. They have reached for the same goals, struggled through the same troubles and really have walked a mile (or 50) in each other’s shoes. These facets of the Scouting family allow us to foster a bond that can help all of us through the good and the bad.

So as the summer continues, remember that when tragedy strikes, the same people you were mad at last week for eating your Oreos will be those whom we lean on.

*To the boys who acted as men that night as their peers were in danger, I applaud you. It is easy to study leadership and recite ideals, but to put them into action under pressure takes character that will last you a lifetime.*

*A Scout is brave.*

*“Highlight on the 27,391 Reasons We Are Here” is a weekly column by PhilNews writer Tawny Slaughter.*

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Cimarron, New Mexico

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

### Attention, Camp Directors!

Thanks to everyone who's I-camped his/her camp blurb to us already! For this issue alone, we had 11 blurbs ready to place in the paper.

But even though this issue is four pages longer than the previous ones were, we still couldn't find the room for the blurbs, and in the interest of keeping the page count below 40, we are holding the blurbs for future publication.

We are really sorry we couldn't publish them in this issue.

We'll get them printed as soon as we can.

We promise.

# Philmont & New Mexico alcohol policies

by Jennifer Peters

*PhilNews writer*

**The 2008 Philmont Staff Guidebook states that Philmont and Double H have a “Zero Tolerance” policy. This states that “each employee will not use, or be under the influence of, alcoholic beverages on Philmont property or in uniform anywhere; not drink and drive; not assist any minor (under age 21) in obtaining alcoholic beverages; and if under age 21, will not seek, obtain or consume alcoholic beverages.”**

- Employees in violation of these alcohol policies will be terminated and possibly prosecuted.
- Always, always, always safety first.
- Drinking in public is illegal in Cimarron. This offense can get you a citation and a fine. The ball-park, streets and even the sidewalks outside the St. James Hotel are public land. Consumption of alcohol is NOT permitted there.
- There will be periodic D.W.I. check points between Cimarron and Philmont this summer.
- If you plan to consume alcohol, always have a designated driver. Designated drivers receive free carbonated drinks and coffee at the St. James Hotel and Colfax Tavern Cold Beer.
- If you happen to find yourself walking back to Philmont from the St. James Hotel, bring a flashlight and walk beside the road, not on it. Doing otherwise may put you and drivers at risk.
- Possession of alcohol is strictly prohibited on Philmont property, even if it is a closed container.
- The Cimarron Marshal's Office wants everyone to “think” and keep in mind that Philmont staffers do not have to do anything silly to get the police's attention.

**With help from the Cimarron Marshal's Office and the Colfax County Sheriff's Department, The PhilNews is breaking down some of New Mexico's laws to help keep you informed and out of the slammer this summer.**

- Anything that impairs your driving can get you a Driving While Intoxicated (D.W.I.) ticket, whether it is prescription drugs, over the counter drugs, illegal substances or alcohol consumption. Some people may be adversely affected and unfit to drive after taking allergy medications, so always look at the warnings on medications' labels.
- The legal limit for D.W.I. is 0.08 percent blood alcohol content, which is not a very high concentration. Altitude, weight, tolerance and other factors may impair your ability to drive after consuming alcohol.
- Aggravated Driving occurs when a driver has 0.16 percent of alcohol in his/her blood or when he/she causes bodily harm to another person as a result of driving while intoxicated.
- It is illegal for any amount of alcohol to be detected in a minor, either detected by a breathalyzer or an officer who can smell alcohol on the minor's breath. A minor may receive a D.W.I. if he/she is pulled over after consuming alcohol.
- If a person over the age of 21 is in the presence of a minor who has been drinking, that person can be charged with Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.
- Open containers in New Mexico are defined by the broken seal of the alcohol container. Flasks are always considered open containers, even if they are empty.
- Open containers in New Mexico are to be kept out of the “Passenger Area” of all motor vehicles while in motion. The passenger area is considered the area where the driver and passengers occupy or an area that is readily accessible, including a glove compartment.
- Trunks, cargo spaces, the area behind the last upright seat and places not normally occupied by a driver or passenger are all acceptable places to have open containers.
- Most importantly, follow the New Mexico Slogan: You Drink, You Drive, You Lose.

# A celebration of cowboy songs centennial

submission by **Seth McFarland**

Director of Museums

A series of eight concerts celebrating Nathan H. "Jack" Thorp and his seminal 1908 publication, *Songs of the Cowboys*, will take place across the state of New Mexico this September. The concerts will be performed by Mark Gardner and Rex Rideout, Old West music revivalists and authorities on Jack Thorp and his time. Their performances, free to the public, are sponsored by a grant from the New Mexico Humanities Council.

Jack Thorp (1867-1940), who is widely acknowledged as the first collector of cowboy ballads, published the very first book of cowboy songs at Estancia, New Mexico, in 1908. His slim booklet contained 23 songs, a number of which Thorp wrote himself, including the oft-recorded classic "Little Joe, the Wrangler."

Although born and raised in New York City to a prominent family, Thorp visited the West at an early age and eventually made New Mexico his home. He

worked in New Mexico as a cowboy, rancher, livestock buyer, surveyor, mounted policeman and brand inspector. Thorp's acquaintances and friends included legendary lawman Pat Garrett, cowboy artist and author Will James, author and folklorist J. Frank Dobie and poet Alice Corbin.

The Thorp Centennial concerts are confirmed for the following New Mexico communities: Tucumcari (Sept. 19), Santa Fe (Sept. 20 & 21), Farmington (Sept. 23), Gallup (Sept. 26); Silver City (Sept. 28), Las Cruces (Sept. 29), Lovington (Sept. 30), and Clayton (Oct. 1).

Gardner & Rideout's Santa Fe performances will coincide with the release by the Palace Press of the special limited edition of their critically-acclaimed book and CD, *Jack Thorp's Songs of the Cowboys*. Also on tap that weekend in Santa Fe is the premiere of a documentary feature on Jack Thorp by filmmaker Susan Gervasi of Lazy G Films.

"It is a real honor to be the ambassadors for the Jack Thorp Centennial," Mark Gardner said recently. "Thorp is truly the father of cowboy music, and I am always saddened at the number of people, even among today's cowboy music performers, who are not aware of him or his significant contributions to the genre. Rex Rideout and I have been trying to correct that situation for some time now, and we are extremely pleased that we will be celebrating Thorp and the centennial of his songbook in his adopted home of New Mexico."

## Announcing:

Western Music Historian Rex Rideout will be performing *Jack Thorp's Songs of the Cowboys* Concert on Wednesday, 7:00 on evening of the 25th of June at the Kit Carson Museum in beautiful Rayado, New Mexico.

This is a free concert open to the public. Seating will be limited. Call Seth at ext. 1256 for further questions and details.

## Shuttle will run between Philmont and Cimarron

The Cimarron Shuttle Bus will begin service seven days a week between Philmont Scout Ranch and Cimarron, N.M., on Thursday, June 19.

The pick-up and drop-off points at Philmont will be at the CHQ Welcome Center and the PTC Flagpoles. A sign announcing the Cimarron Shuttle Bus is located at each point.

The pick-up and drop-off points in Cimarron will be at the St. James Hotel and Cimarron Village Park.

The operation will take place from 11 a.m. to 7

p.m., and will pass each point about every 45 to 60 minutes. The last bus departs Cimarron at 6:30 p.m. for the Ranch.

The cost for the roundtrip shuttle will be \$3.00 per person. **Philmont staff may ride the bus for free by wearing your nametags.** You do not have to be in uniform to take advantage of this gas-saving opportunity. You simply must have your nametag.

The Cimarron Shuttle Bus is operated by Blue Sky Adventures and Main Event Transportation.

# Kit Carson Challenge at Rayado!

The Ruffians of Rayado invite our fellow “Philmontiers” to come show off your best Philmont skills. All abilities welcomed and encouraged for all events! Don’t be shy – come have fun!

**Who:** Any 2008 Philmont Staff

**Where:** the Kit Carson Museum in Rayado

**What:** To see who’s the Best of the Best!

**When:** June 26, 1:30–6 p.m.

Supper for all in attendance, to be served at 6 p.m.

Hopefully we’ll have music and a dance, too!

**Why:** We already know we’re good; we want to see if you are!

*Register by: June 22, via I-camp to Mike Clark at Kit Carson (late registrations will be accepted)*

## Tomahawk Throwing – “Card Cutting”

Stick block = one point, cut card – two points

Hawk must rotate at least one time in each throw

Three throws for total points

Tie breaker – a “handle up” stick

(You may bring your own hawk)

## Black Powder Marksmanship (approx. 100 yards)

Best of three shots, hitting a metal target

Run Off on smaller target, same distance

(shooting until someone misses)

Using our percussion rifle with open sights

(we’ll supply the necessities – gun, powder, balls, etc.)

## Fire Starting (who is the fastest?!?)

Bring your flint & steel or bow drill, char, tender & kindling

- Flint & steel fire starting
- Bow drill fire starting

We’ll have plenty of split wood on hand

Winner is the first to burn the suspended string into two

## Dutch Oven Cooking

Bring any and all equipment and supplies you need, **including the food you’ll be cooking**

We’ll provide the seasoned Dutch oven(s) and charcoal

Cook a dish for eight people:

- Two categories: Entrée, Dessert
- Must be finished by judging time (5:45 p.m)

You’ll need to present your dish to the crowd, ‘cause they’re gonna be eatin’ it

## Blacksmithing (best object and presentation in 30 minutes)

Make your best work and give your best presentation

Bring any and all items you might need

(i.e., tools, special steel, etc.)

We’ll supply the coal, forge, anvil, tools and ¼-inch stock (if you don’t bring your own)

(All finished items to be auctioned off after supper)

## Interp Contest (best dressed)

Come dressed in your best duds, ANY TIME PERIOD

Give a two-minute presentation of yourself, in character

## Registration

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Events (check ANY or ALL in which you’ll be participating)*

\_\_\_ Tomahawk

\_\_\_ Marksmanship

\_\_\_ Fire Starting

\_\_\_ Dutch Oven Cooking

\_\_\_ Blacksmithing

\_\_\_ Interp Contest

\_\_\_ Just comin’ for the good time

Bring your musical instruments, dancing shoes, friends and enthusiasm! Must be on assigned leave to participate! **Always expect the unexpected.**

# ***What's going on around the world?***

## **Plane crashes with Kenyan leaders on board**

A Cessna 210 crashed in western Kenya, killing all four passengers on board. Kenya Roads Minister Kipkalya Kones and Assistant Minister of Home Affairs Lorna Laboso were among those killed. The plane crashed about an hour after take-off in a remote area of Kajong'a. The other two individuals on the plane were an employee of Kones and the pilot. The wreckage has been located, and no foul play was at hand. The plane was headed for Kericho.

## **NATO warns residents of the Arghandab district**

Hundreds of leaflets were dropped via aircrafts flown by NATO the evening of June 16 on several villages. The leaflets asked residents to stay indoors as ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) would be defending the area. The Taliban has recently taken over some of these areas, planted land mines and destroyed bridges in preparation for the attack. This area recently had a mass jailbreak of 400 Taliban militants.

## **Trio of "super-Earths" found**

A trio of "super-Earths" was found by European astronomers. The trio is orbiting a star that was thought to have no satellites. This is part of a string of planets that have been discovered in unexpected places in the universe. The smallest of the three has a mass about four times that of Earth, but in comparison to other planets such as Jupiter and Saturn, this new planet is very close to Earth in size.

## **Car bomb kills at least 51**

In Baghdad, at least 51 Iraqis were killed by a car bomb in Hurriya. Over 75 others were injured. The bomb also destroyed a bus stop and a garage. Also in the area were an open air market and several apartments. This has been one of the most devastating attacks in Baghdad in months. The attack on this predominantly Shiite community occurred as efforts have been made by officials to decree the level of violence in several Shiite areas.

## **Satellite camera to be used to monitor deforestation**

As part of the Congo Basin Forest Fund, a high-resolution camera is being built to provide images of the forest from space. These images will help to counteract deforestation, and locate areas where it is taking place. The Congo Basin Forest Fund is a joint effort by the United Kingdom and the Norwegian governments. This project's goal is to help to reduce and slow human-caused climate changes.

## **Israel and Hamas militant group agree to a ceasefire**

After months of working, an agreement brokered by Egypt has been reached between Israel and the Hamas militant group. The agreement has two parts. The first is that a truce come into effect on June 19 at 0300 GMT, to bring to an end the hostilities and to reopen parts of the Gaza strip's borders. The second part of the agreement focuses on the return of Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier, and reopening crossings into Egypt.

## **Olympic Torch reaches Xinjiang**

As the Olympic Torch made its way through Xinjiang, police were out in force. The relay was moved forward a week to avoid conflict with locals. Many in the area were fighting to make an independent Islamic nation, which has led to higher levels of violence in the area. Officials have been worried that some groups might use the Olympic Torch's presence as an opportunity to draw attention to their cause.

## **China faces more natural disasters**

Southern China now faces immense flooding with a death toll over 100. This region of China is still struggling to recover following the 7.9-magnitude earthquake on May 12 that killed over 69,000 people. The floods have resulted in over 1.27 million people's being evacuated from their homes in 12 different provinces. The areas hardest hit by this new wave of disaster are Guangdong, Guangxi, Jiangxi and Hunan. The floods have destroyed 2.5 million acres of crops and over 67,000 homes.

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# What's going on around the U.S.?

## Services held for Tim Russert on Tuesday and Wednesday

*Meet the Press* moderator Tim Russert died of a heart attack on June 13. Russert collapsed while on the set of the popular NBC show. President George W. Bush was among the mourners at the public viewing at St. Albans School in Washington D.C. on June 17. A private funeral and burial service was held on June 18, followed by a public memorial broadcast on MSNBC.

## New poll says McCain's pro-life stance may discourage voters

NARAL Pro-choice, the nation's largest abortion-rights group, released the results of a survey that indicates GOP presidential candidate John McCain may lose a significant number of voters due to his opposition of *Roe v. Wade*. Democratic polling firm Greenburg Quinlan Rosner Research, which conducted the poll, says this issue could sway independent and pro-choice Republican women into voting for Democratic nominee Barak Obama on November 4.

McCain has publicly stated that the landmark Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, *Roe v. Wade*, should be reversed, except in cases of rape, incest or when life of the mother is in danger. However, the GOP national platform does not include exceptions.

Obama's "fundamental freedom" stance supports a women's right to choose a legal abortion, but he says he will work to reduce unintended pregnancies through sex education and prevention.

## Dead zones expand in the Gulf of Mexico

Gulf dead zones, which are large oxygen-depleted regions, will increase in size in the Gulf of Mexico and cover more than 10,000 square miles this summer, according to predictions by a team of Louisiana scientists. As fertilizer use increases to meet the needs of corn production for ethanol mandates and higher com-

modity prices, the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in rain runoff increases as well.

The team is concerned that the hypoxic or low-oxygen regions may spread into deeper water, and the U.S. policies to reduce the dead zones may be delayed due to other economic needs.

## Red Cross faces fund deficits

The American Red Cross announced that the disaster relief fund is depleted, and that the organization is taking out loans to help with relief efforts for the victims of flooding and tornadoes. Costs of the relief effort are expected to be in excess of \$15 million and could be even higher if the Mississippi River floods St. Louis, Mo., later in the week.

## Supreme Court will hear case against Attorney General John Ashcroft

The Supreme Court announced on June 16 that it will hear Attorney Gen. John Ashcroft's claim that high-ranking officials are immune from lawsuits brought on by immigrants who say they were mistreated after September 11. Javaid Iqbal, a Pakistani immigrant, is suing Ashcroft and several other Bush administration officials, on claims that he was detained and beaten for six months. Until the Supreme Court makes its final decision, the suit is still pending.

## Second plane crashes in women's yard

In West Carrollton, Ohio, a plane crashed in the same spot another plane did almost two years ago. After taking off with no problems from Moraine Air Park, the plane was seen disappearing behind buildings and trees. The plane was then heard hitting the ground. The pilot worked for Frontier Airlines in Denver and was pronounced dead at the crash. The only passenger was taken to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton and is listed as being in good condition.

### Are we missing important headlines?

Determining which half-dozen international and national news stories should be published in The PhilNews is a tough decision, especially since we must do this three or four days before you can have The PhilNews in your hands. (Content is placed on pages on Tuesdays; The PhilNews is distributed on Fridays and Saturdays). If you feel like we are missing important headlines or issues, we'd like to know. We welcome your feedback!

# *What's going on in the different states?*

## **Alabama**

The state highway fund is low, and over 400,000 jobs are at risk if the state government does not put more money in the budget.

## **Alaska**

Two female hikers are missing in Denali National Park. They left June 12 and were expected to return by the 14. Denali National Park is near the area where American wanderer Chris McCandless died in August 1992.

## **Arizona**

Sex offenders are no longer allowed to stay in Arizona's homeless shelters. This has prompted concern among those who say the state will no longer be able to keep tabs on the offenders.

## **Arkansas**

On the weekend of June 14, the building that houses the Republican Party head offices was burglarized.

## **California**

June 16 was the first day that gays and lesbians were allowed to marry in the state of California.

## **Colorado**

The bodies of two missing snowboarders, Michael Gorge and Kyle Kershen, were found June 16. The two had been missing since January.

## **Connecticut**

Gov. Mary Jodi Rell vetoed a bill that would form a committee that would look into helping to fund

nonprofit groups in the state.

## **Delaware**

The state of Delaware received a \$63 million corporate tax payment that may disrupt the state's new budget.

## **Florida**

Gov. Charlie Crist vetoed a bill that would allow the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority to link tolls to the inflation rate.

## **Georgia**

Since 2003, 10 mental hospitals in Georgia have been found unfit. Due to the recent deaths of two patients in an Atlanta hospital, the government will be restructuring the mental health care system.

## **Hawaii**

A Hawaiian-based airline is going to sell its lawsuit against another airline to pay off debt.

## **Idaho**

The Idaho Supreme Court ruled that illegal immigrants are eligible for state medical assistance.

## **Illinois**

Lawmakers are trying to save the Pontiac prison because of the impact that closing the prison would bring to the local communities.

## **Indiana**

The state is trying to ban prerecorded telephone calls for political races in the state. The case has made it to the Indiana State Supreme Court.

## **Iowa**

The governor will probably call a special session in order to deal with the flood zones in the state.

## **Kansas**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is banning smoking at work, effective July 1.

## **Kentucky**

Sen. Damon Thayer opposes the future hearing about the involvement of drugs in Thoroughbred horse racing.

## **Louisiana**

A bill that would allow science teachers to discuss and debate evolution with their students passed June 16 and is expected to be approved by the governor.

## **Maine**

A convicted sex offender is arguing that laws and ordinances that restrict where he may live, work, and loiter are unfair and unusual punishment. He is taking his case to court.

## **Maryland**

Gov. Martin O'Malley is proposing a plan to expand the state's biochemistry industry.

## **Massachusetts**

Sen. James Marzilli may have a criminal complaint filed against him because he groped a woman in April.

## **Michigan**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan may raise its insurance rates

in the state for seven of its policies.

## **Minnesota**

St. Paul's Lafayette Bridge will start receiving improvements in 2010, one year earlier than previously predicted.

## **Mississippi**

The state College Board is soon expected to give its final approval for an annual tuition increase of 5.1 percent instead of the 3.5 percent previously approved.

## **Missouri**

On June 16, the federal government predicted that 27 levees in Missouri along the Mississippi River could fail if flooding continues and efforts to reinforce levees with sand bags do not succeed.

## **Montana**

Local electric company PPL Montana owes the state \$41 million in rent for the use of riverbanks to produce hydroelectric power for the state.

## **Nebraska**

Gas prices went up 3 cents.

## **Nevada**

Legislators are currently working on a plan that would save the state \$60 to \$90 million dollars, so that the state may give state employees and teachers a 4 percent salary increase.

## **New Hampshire**

Five airports in the state have received \$2 million in federal funds so they may make repairs and start new construction projects.

## **New Jersey**

Prosecutors are suing for \$5 million dollars in fraudulent mortgages.

## **New Mexico**

New precautions taken to protect the Mexican-Grey wolf are not well supported in New Mexico, though the policies are supported in Arizona.

## **New York**

Gov. David Paterson has had two surgeries this month to relieve complications of glaucoma.

## **North Carolina**

North Carolina will be releasing its new full budget bill that will include new funding for UNC, pre-kindergarten programs and illegal immigration standards.

## **North Dakota**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Dakota is asking to be allowed to effect a 14.8 percent increase in its insurance rates in the state.

## **Ohio**

Ohio has not put money aside for the state to test octane levels of its gas, even though national standards made it mandatory as of 2007.

## **Oklahoma**

Research has found that Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading cause of death in Oklahoma, and its standing as a cause of death is projected to rise over the next few years.

## **Oregon**

Protesters have not made the

deadline to reverse laws passed that allow gay domestic partnership and a law that makes it illegal for people to discriminate based on sexual orientation.

## **Pennsylvania**

The state senate approved a \$240 million tax cut. This tax cut is supposed to allow working class families to afford increasing food and gas prices.

## **Rhode Island**

Rhode Island secondary schools will begin experimenting with longer school days and a 10-month school year.

## **South Carolina**

A new law will prohibit sex offenders from living within 1,000 feet of schools, daycare centers or playgrounds.

## **South Dakota**

State Sen. Tim Johnson will be running for re-election.

## **Tennessee**

Former state Kathryn Sen. Bowers began her 16-month sentence for bribery in a federal prison camp.

## **Texas**

A faculty hearing tribunal is questioning whether professors' free speech rights apply to pornography, in relation to attempts to fire a tenured professor at the University of Texas in San Antonio for viewing pornography on his work computer.

## **Utah**

Ozone levels in Utah have

prompted health officials to put the state on alert until June 18.

### Vermont

The state is proposing a four-day work week for state employees and a four-day school week for children, in efforts to save money.

### Virginia

Settlements for the Virginia Tech massacre are going to be reviewed by the Richmond Circuit Court Judge.

### Washington

Gay porn model Cody Michael Castagna has had all charges dropped, following a sexual encounter in Spokane in October with a Republican state lawmaker.

### West Virginia

The state is worried that new retirement plan options may prompt a flood of teachers to leave their jobs.

### Wisconsin

Two more counties – Richland and Racine – have been declared disaster areas, due to flooding.

### Wyoming

Two cows in Wyoming have brucellosis, a highly spreadable bacteria disease that causes organ failure.

*All stories were gathered from <http://www.stateline.org>, a conglomerate news Web site that gathers major headlines from a variety of news sources.*

# What's going on in sports?

## Tiger does it again

Tiger Wood won his third U.S. Open on June 15. This is his fourteenth victory in a major. It took him 91 holes of golf and an extra day to do it. Woods made a putt on the eighteenth green on Sunday to send the Open to an 18-hole playoff on June 16 against the little-known golfer Rocco Mediate. Woods and Mediate were tied after the 18-hole playoff. Woods won the tournament by one shot with a par on the first sudden death hole.

This was the first tournament Woods had played since his knee surgery following his second place finish at the Masters this year. The first round of the U.S. Open was the first time he had walked 18 holes since the surgery. He was in pain after most of his big swings, and walked the course with a visible limp.

## Dale Jr. finally wins a race

Dale Earnhardt, Jr., finally won a race. NASCAR's most popular driver had gone 76 races, going back to 2006, before his taking the checkered flag under caution at the Michigan 500 on June 16. Earnhardt is currently ranked third in the Sprint Cup Series, which is the same as his highest career finish for a season that he had in 2003.

Earnhardt caused some controversy before the NASCAR season when he switched from DEI, which his father founded, to Hendrick Motorsports. This has worked out well for him so far, considering his 16th place finish in the rankings last year when he was with DEI.

## Griffey hits 600th home run

Ken Griffey, Jr., hit career home run 600 this week. He did it in a Reds 9-4 win over the Marlins. He joins a short list of players with 600 career home runs, which includes impressive names such as Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa and Willie Mays.

Griffey was one of the most productive home run hitters in the 90s, with 382 home runs in the decade. His production as a young player had many baseball experts projecting that he would set a new career home run record, but myriad injuries in this decade have slowed him down.

Griffey is 38 years old and in the last year of his contract with Cincinnati. He has expressed interest in returning to Seattle to end his career. There has been speculation recently that the Reds may try to trade Griffey, now that he has reached the home run milestone in a Cincinnati uniform.

## Boston Celtics win NBA Finals, 4-2

### • Game 4

The Boston Celtics defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 97-91 on June 12. The Lakers' lead gained up to 24 points during the second quarter, but the Celtics slowly inched back into the game in the second half. The Celtics did not take the lead until under the five-minute mark in the fourth quarter.

After winning Game 4, the Celtics led the NBA Finals 3-1 over the Lakers. No team in NBA Finals history has ever come back from a 3-1 series deficit.

• **Game 5:**

The Los Angeles Lakers survived Game 5 of the NBA Finals to bring the series to 3-2, although they gave up large leads again. Los Angeles had a lead of 19 points that it let slip away. Then, later in the game, the Lakers had a 14-point lead that diminished until it turned into a 90-90 tie in the fourth quarter. The difference in this game was dependable play from Lakers Paul Gasol and Lamar Odom for the first time in this series, and winning the third quarter for the first time in the series helped as well.

• **Game 6:**

The Boston Celtics won Game 6 against the Los Angeles Lakers on June 17, 131-92. Celtics players Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Paul Pierce fought hard for Boston's victory, contributing 69 points between them. Victory was especially sweet, as the Celtics denied the Lakers' coach Phil Jackson what would have been his 10th title.

Lakers star Kobe Bryant played a hard night, contributing 22 points to the game. The Celtics led in points for almost the entire game, including a 23-point lead at halftime. These leads distinguish Game 6 from the other series games, as furious fourth quarters and unexpected comebacks seemed to prove standard for the previous five games.

The Celtics' win concludes a 22-year title drought.

*Special thanks to Matt Setser for his help in reporting.*

### American League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
<b>Boston</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0.603</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>6 to 4</b>
<b>Tampa Bay</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>5 to 5</b>
<b>NY Yankees</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0.529</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>Won 4</b>	<b>7 to 3</b>
<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>6 to 4</b>
<b>Toronto</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0.493</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Lost 2</b>	<b>3 to 7</b>

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
<b>Chicago Sox</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0.551</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Lost 2</b>	<b>5 to 5</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0.486</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>3 to 7</b>
<b>Cleveland</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0.471</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>Won 1</b>	<b>6 to 4</b>
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0.457</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>8 to 2</b>
<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>Won 2</b>	<b>5 to 5</b>

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
<b>LA Angels</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0.592</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>5 to 5</b>
<b>Oakland</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0.551</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Won 3</b>	<b>6 to 4</b>
<b>Texas</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0.493</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>5 to 5</b>
<b>Seattle</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0.343</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>Lost 4</b>	<b>3 to 7</b>

### National League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0.583</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Won 1</b>	<b>6 to 4</b>
<b>Florida</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0.543</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Won 2</b>	<b>6 to 4</b>
<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0.493</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>Won 1</b>	<b>3 to 7</b>
<b>NY Mets</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0.493</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>Won 2</b>	<b>4 to 6</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0.408</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>Won 3</b>	<b>4 to 6</b>

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
<b>Chicago Cubs</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0.643</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Won 2</b>	<b>7 to 3</b>
<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0.592</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>Won 2</b>	<b>6 to 4</b>
<b>Milwaukee</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0.522</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>Won 1</b>	<b>5 to 5</b>
<b>Pittsburgh</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0.486</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Won 1</b>	<b>5 to 5</b>
<b>Houston</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0.471</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Lost 5</b>	<b>2 to 8</b>
<b>Cincinnati</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0.465</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>Lost 2</b>	<b>4 to 6</b>

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0.529</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Lost 2</b>	<b>5 to 5</b>
<b>LA Dodgers</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0.449</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>Lost 5</b>	<b>3 to 7</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0.437</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>Won 1</b>	<b>5 to 5</b>
<b>San Diego</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0.437</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>7 to 3</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>6 to 4</b>

# Welcome to the Valle



*The Valle Vidal is 100,000 acres of New Mexican wilderness.*

*Located north of Philmont, the Valle is valued by many as a refuge for numerous Rocky Mountain wildlife species, as well as an area protected by Leave No Trace policy.*

*For this issue, The PhilNews visited each staffed camp in the Valle, to bring you a little touch of what lies north of us.*

***preface & introduction by Chris Dunn***  
*PhilNews Manager*

“You guys are on Trek 35? AAAAAAAAAAAAAH! That’s over a HUNDRED MILES!” is how Steven August Hirsch, Jr., of the great state of Arizona (and Camp Director of Ring Place) greeted the Valle Vidal’s first crew of the summer.

Led by crew leader Nic Lush (whom Hirsch dubbed “Nikolas,” pronounced with a strong “i”) crew 608-J was the first crew to attempt Trek 35 and to arrive at each Valle camp. On Day Three (June 11), the crew from Round Rock, Texas, found itself in the Valle – more specifically, Seally Canyon. The next day, they went to Whiteman Vega, with a stop at Ring Place.

“We didn’t understand how [the Valle] could be a part of Philmont but how it’s not,” advisor Chris Woodfield said.

“But if we came out here again, we would certainly come out here,” lead advisor Jeff Lush said. “I think we all like it better – it gives us a chance to use the compass, the GPS.”

“It’s more of an adventure,” added advisor Fern Hernandez.

Of the 12-person crew, only Fern Hernandez and Nic had been to Philmont before. Nic, who turned 17 on the last day of this trek, took a South Country trek in 2005 but had to leave on the fourth day after breaking his ankle. All the other boys ranged in age from 14 to 16.

At Whiteman Vega, six of the boys decided to

# e Vidal



be the first Scouts to take the two-hour mountain bike trail. Few escaped injury. Nic took a spill at the half-pipe near the end of the course. Chase Hernandez fell several times as well, before gathering the courage to take on a rocky turn.

"That helmet saved my life, three times," he later said.

(Note: This writer also took quite a few spills – more than she can count.)

Despite getting several cuts and scrapes, the boys' spirits remained high, and they later engaged in a game of ultimate Frisbee with the Whiteman staff after dinner.

The next morning, after a morning prayer, the crew set out to return to Ring Place. With encouragement from the advisors – part of their way of honoring the boys' leadership skills – the crew arrived at Ring Place in time for another late breakfast. Their day would end at Iris Park, a trail camp southwest of Seally Canyon.

Before 608-J departed Ring Place, Steven August Hirsch, Jr., of the great state of Arizona bid them farewell. After declaring "Nikolas" to be the greatest of the Greek warriors, Hirsch made Nic a promise.

"This summer, when we discover a new star, we will all call it 'Nikolas,' warrior of the summer constellations," Hirsch told Nic.

And with that, 608-J left Ring Place to spend one more day in the Valle Vidal.



*photos by Chris Dunn, PhilNews Manager*

**TOP:** Little Costilla, as seen from the Whiteman Vega staff parking lot in 2007.

**ABOVE:** Members of crew 608-J depart from Whiteman Vega on June 12.

# What the Valle Vidal is, and means to us

by **Jennifer Peters**

*PhilNews writer*

The Valle Vidal is the 100,000 acres of Vermejo Park donated by the Pennzoil Company in 1832 to the United States. The donation of the Valle through the United States Forest Service (U.S.F.S.) and maintained by Carson National Forest designates the area as a Multiple Use Area.

Sportsman, ranchers, Boy Scouts and anyone else who loves the outdoors are welcome to enjoy the wildlife, scenery and recreational activities that the Valle offers. In 2006, Pres. George W. Bush signed the Valle Vidal Protection Act of 2005 to permanently protect the Valle from mineral leasing.

The agreement between Philmont and the U.S.F.S. has several stipulations for Philmont participants.

"We use the Leave No Trace techniques for camping while we are there," Director of Program Mark Anderson said. "We have permission to hike on everything in basically the Colfax County half of the Valle Vidal."

Philmont also takes on conservation projects requested by the U.S.F.S. In 2007, 1,923 participant hiked through the Valle, and logged over 4,800 hours of service for conservation.

This year, Philmont has a Valle Specialist who is responsible for involving all the Valle staff in conservation projects and who also monitors their progress. Ryan

Barnhill, the Valle Specialist or Spec, has been working with staff and participants to restore and protect the trails and other conservation projects in the Valle.

Barnhill and the Whiteman Vega staff work to maintain the trails that involve the mountain biking program.

"We work on specifics with mountain biking trails, like how to shed water," Barnhill said. "We work on what's called 'armoring' to keep [the trail] from eroding and falling apart."

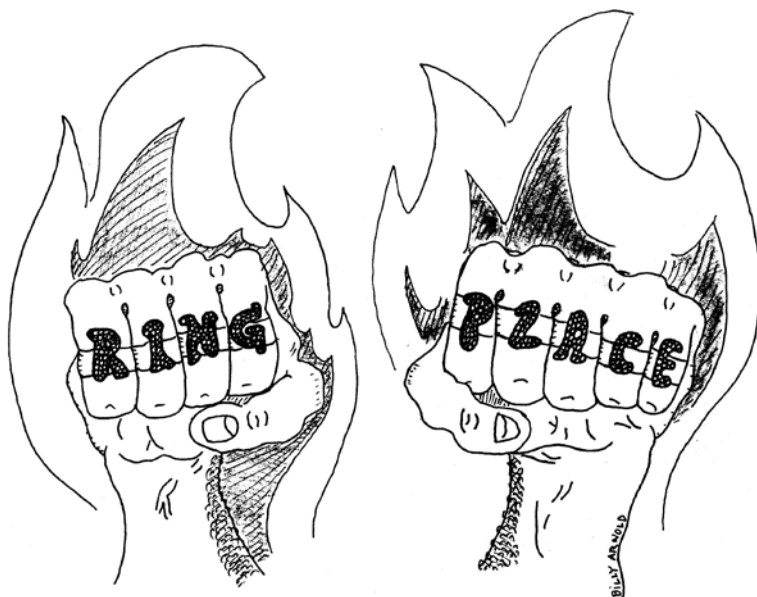
Rock structures built at Seally Canyon have raised the water level in the watershed.

"In years past at Seally Canyon, [the staff] did rock structures to raise the water table to allow more water in the watershed," said Barnhill. "This year is the first year that we have noticed water flowing in Seally Canyon [when it was dry]."

The Valle Vidal is an important resource for wildlife and ranchers. The largest herd of elk in New Mexico – along with mule deer, black bears, mountain lions and cutthroat trout – call the Valle home. Ranchers can get permits to bring their cattle to graze on the plains.

"The fact that the cattle go up there [to graze] helps to preserve those big meadows," Anderson said. "If there wasn't pressure on those meadows, then they would not be quite like they were today."

For more information on the Valle Vidal, go to the Coalition for the Valle Vidal Web site ([www.vallevidal.org](http://www.vallevidal.org)) or any of the staffed Valle camps.



**illustration by Billy Arnold,  
Program Counselor at Ring Place**

*Billy, we really tried to make your illustration bigger on the page. But as you can see, this issue is already four pages longer than the previous two were, and we're still crunched for space. We're glad we could fit it here.*

*Love, The PhilNews*



photo by Andrew "Axe Man" Tyler, NPS Photographer

*A view of the Ring Ranch house, with Baldy Mountain and Touch-Me-Not in the background, taken in 2007.*

## Ring Place: *There really is no place like home*

**by Tawny Slaughter**  
*PhilNews writer*

From the front porch of Ring Place, one can see the sprawling valley, a boarded-up ranch home, the wrangler and his dogs, and occasionally Tyson the local bison.

On June 10, 1890, a cattleman named Timothy Ring bought 320 acres from the Maxwell Land Grant Company. Now part of that land is the staffed camp we call Ring Place. When visiting Ring Place, the first noticeable addition from the standard staff cabin or yurt is the 10-bedroom house sitting just beyond the front porch.

This house was built as the home of Ring family in the late 1800s. The house was built in several different sections. It started as two rooms and finished as a 17-room ranchhouse. The Ring family lived there until Timothy's death in 1906, after which his wife Catherine sold the ranch.

In 1926, the Ring Ranch returned to the ownership of the Maxwell Land Grant Company. Today, the Ring Ranch is part of the Carson National Forest, and cattle are still grazed there.

The aspect of Ring Place that hungry crews and minibears may both enjoy the most is that it is a com-

missary camp. But the staff of Ring Place offers several other programs to crews who pass through their camp. Astronomy and weather are both standards at Ring Place.

However, because Ring Place has a lower crew count, the staff is able to cater its program to individual crews stopping there. The unique staff at Ring Place, along with their differing backgrounds, allows them to be able to offer geology and bird watching to crews or Scouts who might be interested.

The staff sees this low number of crews as a positive for Ring Place. It allows the staff to spend more time with the crews that come through the camp. The staff enjoys this chance to get to know crews and share in their Philmont experience.

If one is searching for a quiet place to relax on days off, Ring Place is a good place to start. For anyone feeling geographically claustrophobic from being in the mountains and would like to enjoy the silhouette of mountains against the setting sun, the Valle can offer stunning views.

However, if all you are searching for is man-cakes (really big pancakes) and a solid game of Settlers of Catan or Hungry Hungry Hippos, you will find no better place on or off the ranch to spend your time than Ring Place.



**photo by Rebecca Bost, NPS Photographer**

*Seally Canyon Program Counselor Kim Drumm (center) helps 608-J crew member Chase Hernandez apply a splint onto PhilNews writer Shilynn Lucas' arm.*

## A day at Seally Canyon

**by Shilynn Lucas**  
PhilNews writer

It's 9 a.m., and the staff of Seally Canyon is starting to stir, except for Program Counselor Pat Drumm, who needs something hot to drink before she'll talk to you in anything but guttural tones. Camp Director Kat Kallal starts breakfast as people float in, and it smells amazing. The group then sits around the table in the yurt and talks about the crews they expect that day.

Seally Canyon is a search and rescue camp, but the staff concentrates its energies on wilderness first aid training. They will see an estimated 83 crews this summer. Each scenario is adjusted to fit a crew's level of experience and age range.

"Make sure the kids have a good time," Kallal said. That's the one thing that stays consistent.

After planning to run scenarios of dehydration and heat exhaustion, the group sits and waits. Jokes

fly, and "Shut up, vanilla face!" brings a room full of giggles.

The bright faces and smiles are a surprise after the problems the Seally crew has had since arriving to camp. The day the camp's first crew arrived, one staff tent ripped to the point of no repair, two tents collapsed in the wind, Kallal's clothes were soaked in kerosene and a falling yurt beam greeted one News & Photo Service photographer's head.

Other warnings extended by the Seally cabin staff are as follows: staff cooties will give campers a "staff infection" if campers misuse their pilot-to-bombadier latrine, minibear cooties come from Scouts and Shure Fine Foods are not always the finest.

Three crews arrive between 11:50 and 12:45 on June 12. All receive fresh water and porch talks. A porch talk at Seally Canyon includes fire warnings, mountain lion reports and a short lesson in leave-no-trace.

Seally Canyon is located in the Valle Vidal, which

is not actually Philmont property, so the Scouts practice their “shwacking” techniques and are always expected to practice leave-no-trace while in the area.

This is one of the draws for Scouts.

“One of the things we were trying to do is let the boys do some point-to-point navigation,” Steve Butler, a crew advisor, said.

Campers rest, rehydrate and set up camp before their search-and-rescue lesson. Then they gather in front of the yurt to learn what to do if they find a victim.

This is taught from a brightly colored, collapsed cardboard box. The Scouts cover scene safety, primary assessment, c-spine precautions, second assessment, S.A.M.P.L.E. history and head-to-toe evaluation.

After the first response lecture, the Scouts try to find a “victim” in the surrounding area. Once the “victim” is found, the Scouts have to apply what they previously learned.

The Scouts were led to the victim and did not re-

ally apply searching techniques.

“The boys thought it was going to be something different — more tracking instead of first aid,” Butler said.

After the scenario, everyone retires to his or her respective area to start dinner for the night. The food made in the Seally Canyon yurt is fantastic, even if some of the preparations look like a science experiment.

At 6 p.m., an advisors’ coffee time is held in order to give them time to get away from the Scouts and have adult conversation with their peers. Here, you can hear conversations ranging from politics to the best way for ladies to pee in the woods.

The camp settles down to small hushed groups of laughter at nightfall. The Seally staffers are nothing but polite and entertaining as they play games in their yurt with kerosene lanterns as the only light.

So head to Seally Canyon, and get great food, and have great fun.

## “Silly” Canyon 10-Codes

*because we all know that they like to use the radio*

**10-No-No** — that would be a negative  
**10-Yes-Yes** — the same as 10-4 (affirmative)  
**Shut up Vanilla Face** — the same as 10-15 (unnecessary itinerary change)  
**10-Say-What** — this has to be said with the word “what” being at least an octave higher than the rest; the same as 10-1 (receiving poorly)  
**10-Get-Off-Your-Butt** — the same as 10-32

**10-Hot-Stuff** — the same as 10-70 (fire)  
**10-70-10-80** — Flaming Bear  
**10-Uh-Oh** — Martin locked his keys in his car  
**10-Hurry-Up-N-Get-Dressed** — the same as 10-12 (Official Visitor Present)  
**10-Where-You-At-Willis** — the same as 10-20 (location check)  
**10-97** — zombie attack

## The best thing Shilynn learned at Seally: How to pee standing up!

So all girls know how tricky it can be to take a pee in the Philmont backcountry. A female advisor gave me the solution during advisors’ coffee. Later, I hopped on-line, and here are the best results I found. The advisor recommends the Sani-Fem Freshette.

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*photos by Tawny Slaughter, PhilNews writer*

*Whiteman Vega Camp Director Josh DeCamp and Program Counselor Kurt Nelson point out various landmarks from the ridge near Whiteman Vega.*

## **Whiteman Vega: a biking challenge**

**by Jennifer Peters**

*PhilNews writer*

Whiteman Vega, located in the Valle Vidal, has all the components of a great backcountry camp. Awesome program, scenery, staff and the yurt make this a place worth visiting for participants and staff.

Whiteman Vega has the only mountain biking program at Philmont.

“Our main program focuses on mountain biking, biking safety, Leave No Trace, bicycle maintenance and different components as well,” said Camp Director Josh DeCamp.

Whiteman Vega has trails that can cater to the

novice bike rider and the more experienced as well.

"[It's] not too difficult if you're a beginner, and it has a lot of fun spots for the people who are a little more advanced," said DeCamp. The two-hour course has up-and-down hill slopes, drop-offs, a half-pipe and a "pudding cup" hill. The pudding cup hill gets its name from the pudding cup that awaits any person who can get to the top of the hill without stopping.

The bikes and trails at Whiteman Vega are really nice, and they are kept in tip-top shape.

"We've got good bikes, we've got good trails. So it's fun for a lot of different levels of riding," DeCamp said.

The landscape of the Valle and Whiteman cannot be captured by words or even pictures. The front view from the yurt porch is of a huge meadow, and to the right are several well-known Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

"Our front door looks out on Baldy and Touch-Me-Not," said DeCamp. "Pretty sweet thing to walk out to in the morning everyday."

Little Costilla, which is a favorite ascent among Philmont staffers, can be seen from the yurt as well, and will be open for hikers on July 1 after elk calving season is over.

The men of Whiteman are really fun to hang around with this summer, and DeCamp is excited about working with them.

"Coolest staff on or off the ranch, as far as I'm concerned," DeCamp said.

The guys at Whiteman thoroughly enjoy their program and the camp they are working at this summer. They also made this out-of-shape journalist feel like she was right at home.

They waited for me when I could not breathe while biking up the trail, and they would not let me give up on that seemingly never-ending first hill. They encouraged me to step a little outside my comfort zone and try the half-pipe, which may not be for everyone, but it made the trail even better. The feelings of pride that I walked away with after finishing that course would not have been possible without the guys that guided me.

The men of Whiteman Vega gave me important mountain biking tips and equal amounts of support. If you are looking for a great experience, then Whiteman Vega has it all.

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**chamber@springercoop.com**

**www.cimarronnm.com**

## **Anything you need to know?**

Is there any general information about Philmont, Cimarron or the surrounding area that you'd like to know about? Let us know, and we'll do our best to keep you informed!

We will be working on a concert calendar (including locations in Colorado and Arizona), to be published in the near future, and we are also trying to work with the Storyteller in Taos to get movie times. If you have any further ideas, we'd love to hear them!

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Please enclose \$15.00 with this form. You can also do payroll deduction up through August 1<sup>st</sup>.

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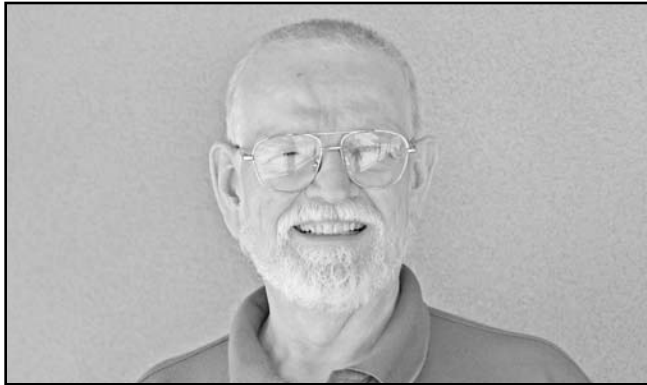
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# Look for the ponies!



**by Dick Wertz**  
CHQ Chaplain

A mother and father were deeply concerned about their 12 year old twin boys, Jeremy and Jason. The two boys were complete opposites in how they viewed the everyday occurrences in their lives.

If it rained, Jeremy worried he was going to get wet, develop a cold and perhaps even die. Jason would see the rain as an opportunity to play, and he would see rain as a time for adventure. Jeremy never saw any good in anything, and Jason never saw anything but good.

Due to their concerns for their boys, the parents went to see a child psychiatrist. After listening to their story, the psychiatrist told them that he had a solution to their problem. Since Christmas was just a few weeks

away, he told the parents to buy hundreds of dollars' worth of presents for Jeremy – anything they could think to make Jeremy happy. Jason, on the other hand, was only to receive a ton of raw horse manure. After some initial reservations, the parents agreed to follow the doctor's advice.

Come Christmas morning, the parents took Jeremy to the room full of his Christmas presents and sent him in to open them. Then they took Jason to the room full of horse manure. About one hour later, they returned to check up on the boys.

Jeremy was sitting in the midst of the wrapping paper and presents. He was depressed, had tears in his eyes and just as negative as usual. When his parents asked him what was wrong, Jeremy said, "I bet all the presents will break, the warranties will not be honored and the wrapping paper will probably catch fire and burn the house down!"

The parents then went to check on Jason. They found him in the middle of the pile of horse manure, and he was giggling, laughing and digging frantically in the manure. When his parents asked him why he was so happy, the little boy said, "With so much manure, I know that there is a pony somewhere in here. I'm looking for him!"

Moral of the story: when life seems like it is dumping on you, "look for the ponies..."

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# Words of wisdom from the Valle Vidal

*The Manly Men of Crater Lake are on break for this issue, as the three Valle camps are instead providing their infinite wisdom/advice. The Crater boys will be back next week, so stay tuned!*

**Q: If an elk attacks me, where is the best place to hit it?** - *Little Costilla-bound*

A: Kill it with kindness; violence only begets more violence. - *Whiteman Vega*

A: Two inches above the kneecap. Measure 2, cut 1. - *Seally Canyon*

**Q: Can you show me how to light my fire?** - *Cold, hungry and trailbound*

A: Sure! - *Ring Place*

A: We could, but Johnny Carson would never let us on TV again. - *Whiteman Vega*

A: Make sure you have a starter, then apply heat, usually a flame. - *Seally Canyon*

**Q: If you were stuck on a desert island with one backcountry manager, who would it be and why?** - *NPS*

A: It would have to be Martin because he is the one who got us stuck on the island by locking his keys in the boat. - *Whiteman Vega*

**Q: How do you guys get around without established trails?** - *Scared of compasses*

A: Incompetent fool! One does not need compasses when pogo sticks provide an excellent vantage point on every bounce. Just beware of low branches. - *Ring Place*

A: Left foot, right foot, left foot... - *Whiteman Vega*

A: Eeny meeny, miney mo, turn in circles, stop and point. - *Seally Canyon*

**Q: How do I watch the "Office" webisodes if Philmont's Internet network doesn't allow me to watch videos?** - *Obsessed with Jim and Pam*

A: Most episodes of "The Office" are available on [www.ijustlostthegame.com](http://www.ijustlostthegame.com). - *Ring Place*

A: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ. Words are formed left to right. Tomorrow, we work on numbers... - *Whiteman Vega*

A: Go to Ring Place and sit in their office and watch their Phildrama. - *Seally Canyon*

**Q: Why should I visit the Valle?** - *Comfy in South Country*

A: One reason: Steven August Hirsch Jr. from the great state of Arizona. - *Ring Place (not Steven August Hirsch Jr. from the great state of Arizona)*

**Q: Why should I pay \$4.30 for gas if we can just drill for oil in the Valle?** - *from Texas*

A: \*BEEP\* INCORRECT - ONLY NATURAL GAS IS IN THE VALLE, SILLY MEAT BAG. - *Ring Place*

A: Given the rising demand for oil in Asia, and further devaluation of the U.S. dollar, you should give up any hope of cheaper gas in the future. Also, the notion that oil procured from the Valle would alleviate said energy woes is a fallacy of the highest order. \$4.30 is pretty cheap actually; both Britain and Germany have gas prices equivalent to over \$8/gallon. Instead of clinging to an outdated and polluting technology, we should use higher gas prices as an opportunity to embrace cleaner, and now cheaper, energy technologies. See Stirling Energy Systems or Heliovolt for more information. - *Whiteman Vega*

**Q: If the Valle were a type of sock, what would it be? Be as specific as possible.** - *NPS*

A: The Valle would be the odd sock in a laundry load because it's clean, unique and always alone. (Please visit!) - *Ring Place*

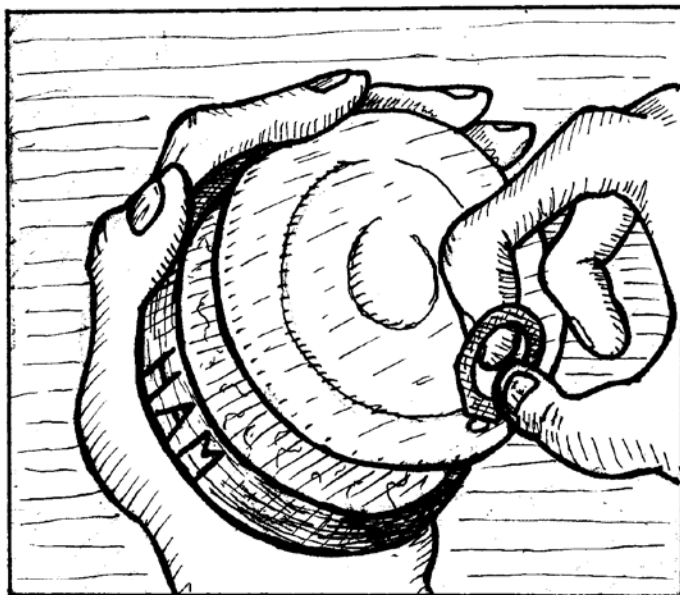
A: Wind sock - 'nuff said. - *Whiteman Vega*

A: It would be Mark Emde's colorful rainbow socks. - *Seally Canyon*

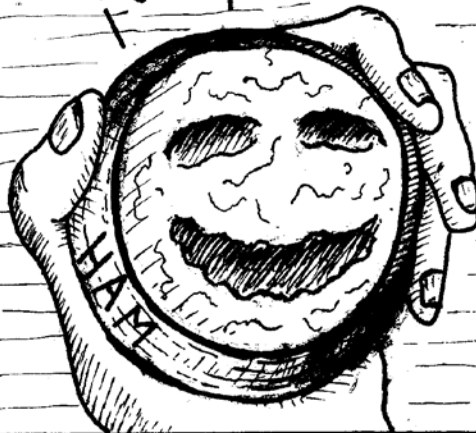
*Please be aware that the views expressed in this advice column do not necessarily represent those of The PhilNews, Philmont Scout Ranch or the Boy Scouts of America.*

## Tell us your troubles!

The wise and compassionate men at Crater Lake are anxiously waiting to help you. I-camp your questions to the News & Photo Service to get answers and have your problems spread all over the Ranch.



Greetings, Phil-Staffers! I'm Hamilton, the canned ham, and I have important news!



My fellow hams and I have been given life by the spirits of Urraca Mesa! We are no longer food, but highly intelligent living beings!



I am here to announce that we, the canned hams, are your new overlords! I am sure that all you humans will welcome our rule with open arms!



Now I want to eat you even more.

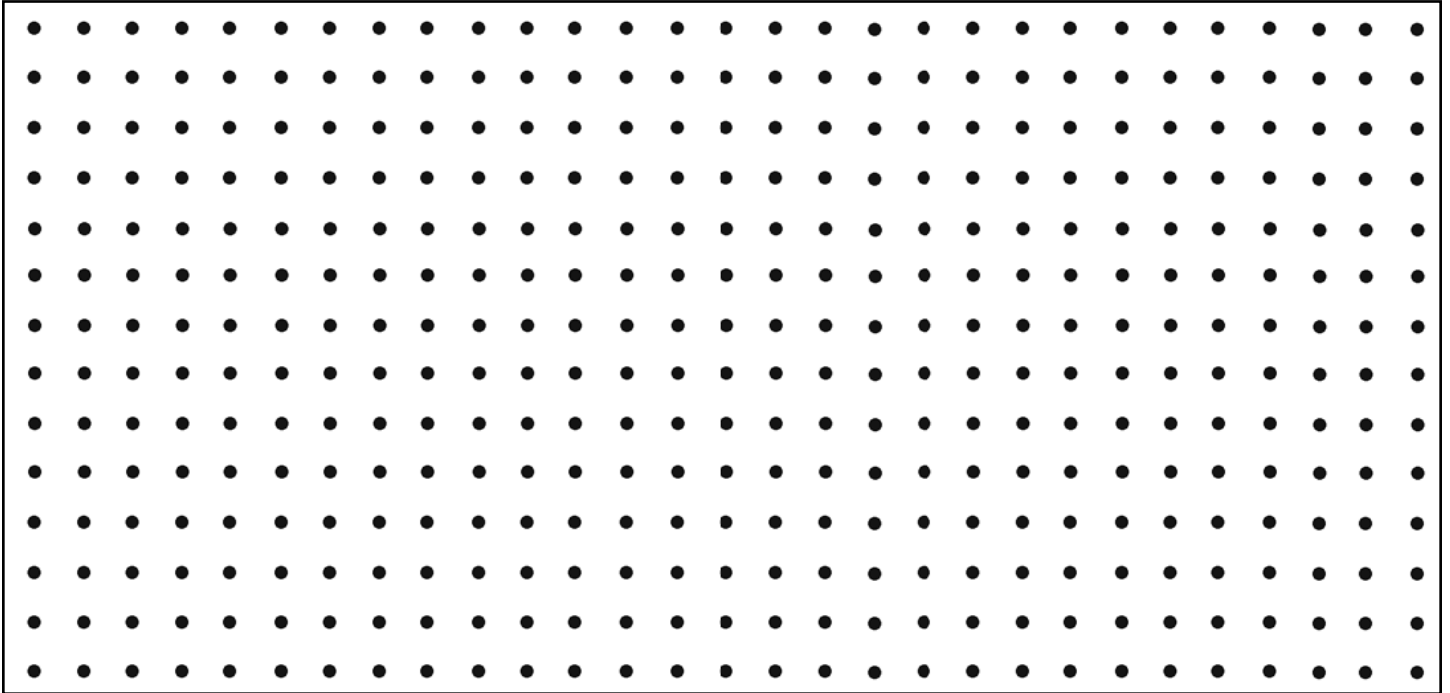


I, uh... Um...

cartoon by Ben Boettger, NPS Photographer

# The Dot Game

Take turns with your opponent by connecting one pair of dots with a horizontal or vertical line. Try to be the one to close each square with the fourth side. If you close a square, you get another turn. Mark the squares you make with your initials, because whoever has the most at the end wins. Good luck!



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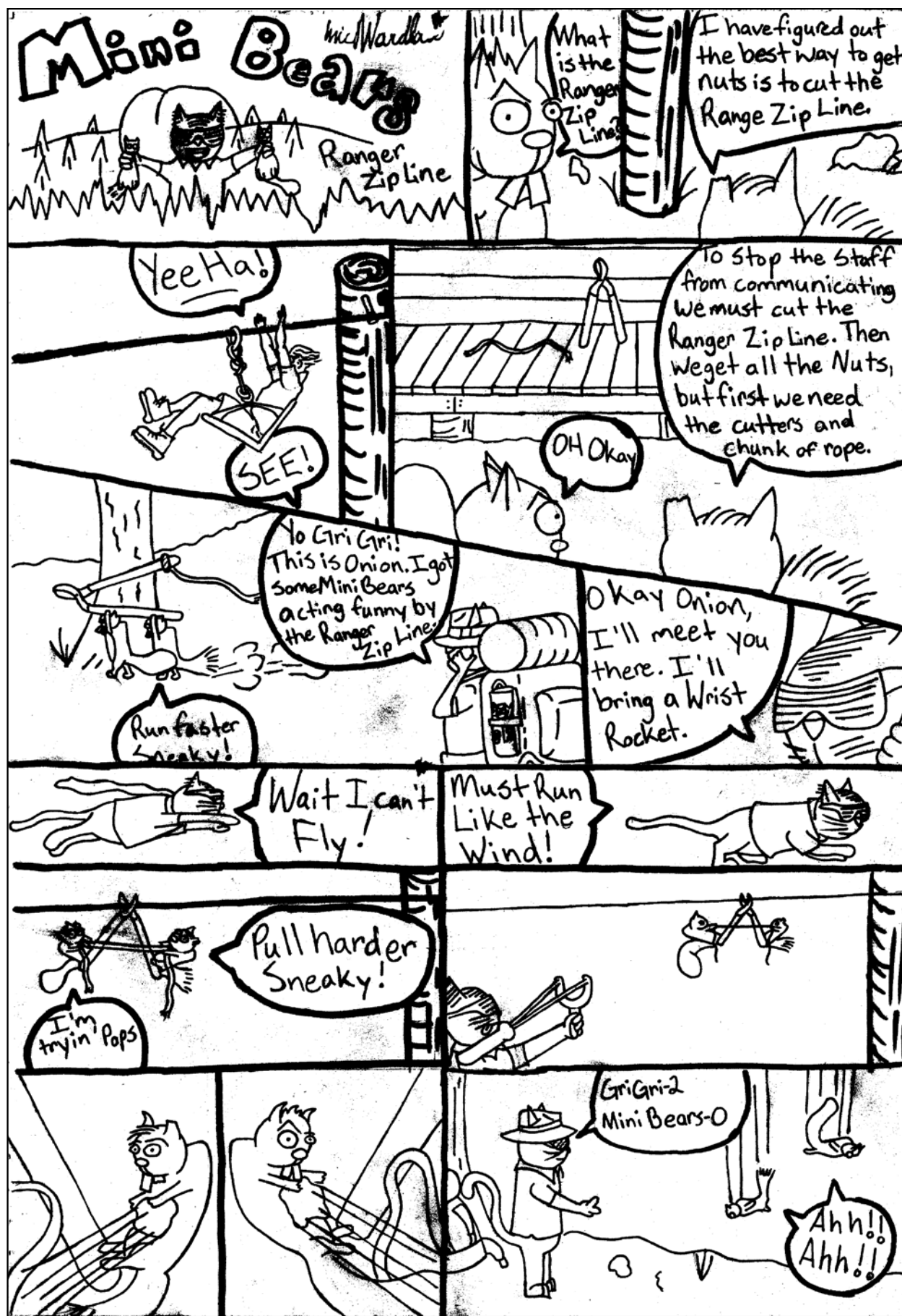


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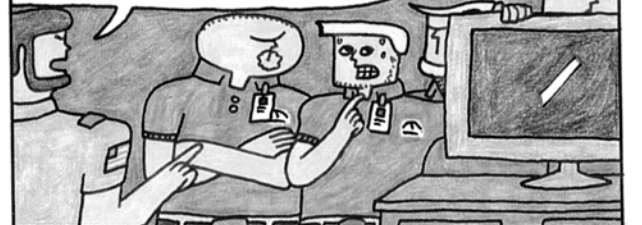
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sudoku courtesy of websudoku.com

## Level: Easy

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

## Level: Hard

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



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## CHQ Activities and CT Calendar

<b>Friday</b> (June 20)	Watermelon carving (8 p.m., outside staff lounge) Geology CT (6 p.m., in Ranger Office)
<b>Saturday</b> (June 21)	Swing dancing (7:30-10 p.m., PTC Assembly Hall) GPS/Navigation CT (6 p.m., in Ranger Office)
<b>Sunday</b> (June 22)	Sudoku (8 p.m., outside staff lounge) Crew Leader Development CT (6 p.m., in Ranger Office)
<b>Monday</b> (June 23)	Movie night (8 p.m., Advisors' Meeting Room) First Aid Revisited CT (6 p.m., in Ranger Office)
<b>Tuesday</b> (June 24)	Bike race (5 p.m., starts at Welcome Center) Crew Leader Development CT (6 p.m., in Ranger Office)
<b>Wednesday</b> (June 25)	Scavenger hunt (8 p.m., outside staff lounge) First Aid Revisited CT (6 p.m., in Ranger Office)
<b>Thursday</b> (June 26)	Kit Carson Challenge (1:30-6 p.m., at Rayado — see pg. 11) Flora/Fauna CT (6 p.m., in Ranger Office)
<b>Friday</b> (June 27)	Capture the flag (8 p.m., outside staff lounge) Ecology CT (6 p.m., in Ranger Office)

## PTC Evening Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Opening program 8:15 p.m.	Handicrafts 6:30 p.m. Cracker barrel 7 p.m.	Western night 6:30 p.m.	Movie night 7 p.m.	Handicrafts 6:30 p.m. Cracker barrel 7 p.m.	Closing program 7:30 p.m.	No events scheduled

## CT Information

CTs (Continuing Training) are held at the Ranger Office. They are open to any staffer who wishes to attend, and are not restricted to the Ranger department.

**Crew Leader Development** — The success of the crew is dependent upon the success of the crew leader. This CT provides helpful information for all staff members to foster and develop each crew leader to his/her fullest potential.

**First Aid Revisited** — This CT provides a review of Philmont First Aid skills, as well as a presentation of more advanced skills through scenario-based instruction.

**Flora/Fauna** — Ever wonder what makes a mountain lion so elusive? Ever ask yourself, "What is a dwarf crimson columbine?" If so, your questions and more will be answered during the crash course on the flora and fauna of Philmont.

**Ecology** — The study of living organisms and how it relates to Philmont's most prevalent living organisms, the Philmont staffer. Two Ranger Trainers will provide a crash course that will answer any and all questions.

## Be Phil-famous!

Contribute to The PhilNews! Share your Philmont- and Scout-related stories, experiences and information by sending us content for publication. Articles, columns and other written submissions should be 300-600 words long, and will be edited for length, style and appropriateness. We also accept photos, recipes, cartoons and illustrations, poetry and letters to the editor.

Send us content via I-camp, at the News & Photo Service office or via e-mail (philmontnps@netbsa.org). All content must be turned in by **Monday at 5 p.m.** in order to appear in that Friday's issue. We look forward to hearing from you!