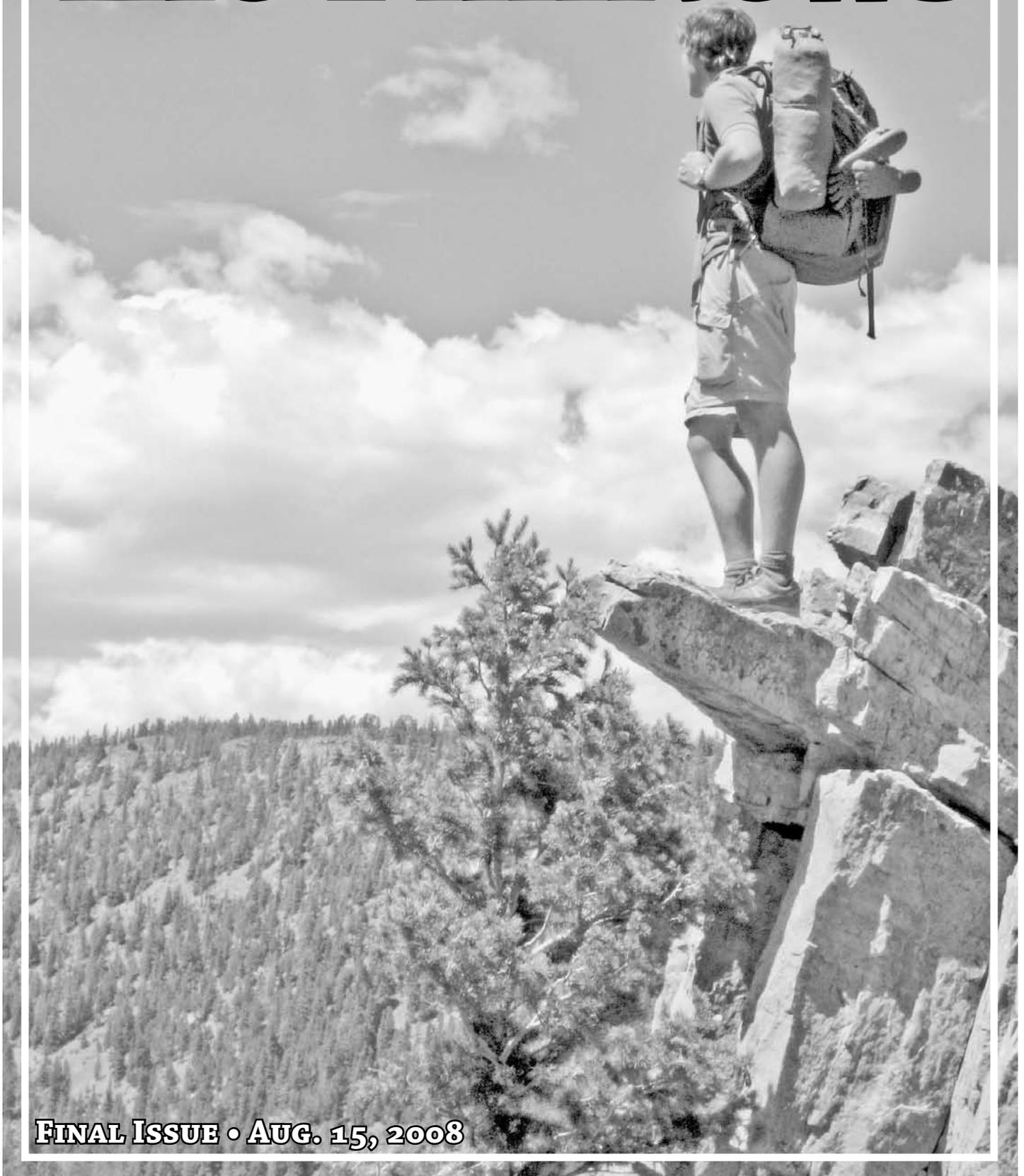


The PhilNews



FINAL ISSUE • AUG. 15, 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Landscape.....	3
Sunrise/Sunset.....	3
Storms/Rainbows.....	4
Flowers/Plants.....	4
Wildlife.....	5
Humor.....	5
Digital Creation.....	6
Camper Activity.....	6
Black and White.....	7
Chaplains' Corner.....	8

PHILMONT NEWS & PHOTO STAFF**Editor-in-Chief** • Steve Nelson**NPS Manager** • James King**PhilNews Manager** • Chris Dunn**Photo Manager** • Jamie Thorpe**Lead Videographer** • Ian Olesnevich**PhilNews staff** • Jennifer Peters**Photo Staff**

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

On the cover:

“Wilderness Pledge” — 1st Place Overall and 1st Place for Staff Activity. (photo by Ranger John Scherschel)

From the desk: Editor's Note

Out in God's country

Welcome to 2008's Final Issue of The PhilNews! We are so pleased to present to you the first-place winners of each category in the Activities staff's annual photo contest. Judges Keith Galloway, Mark Anderson, Brian Gray, Steve Nelson, Dave Kopsa, Janice Clark, Linda Anderson, Diane Nelson, Lois Galloway, Ruth Clock and Bill Clock spent an hour poring over 116 photos entered into the 10 categories, and there were definitely some tough calls to make!

We really did try to include the second- and third-place winners in each category as well, but making everything fit proved to be rather unwieldy. However, you can view all the winning entries in the staff dining hall, on the north wall near the drinks station.

It's the end of another summer out here in God's country. I hope everyone had a wonderful season, and thanks so much for reading The PhilNews! Have a great off-season!

Sincerely,
Chris

The memories of 2008

by Mark Anderson*Director of Program*

Throughout my Scouting career, I have had the opportunity to spend many summers working in camps and enjoying the experience with a group of staff members. At closing campfires, I have used the following quote to conclude a weekly camp session.

*Rich are the memories, this fire recalls;
Many the friendships once again renewed;
Now as our thoughts are kindled by the flames
So may our prayers go out to all the world.*

As we bring our 2008 Philmont summer to a close, I know that we all have rich memories to recall and friendships that will be renewed over and over in the years to come.

What a privilege it has been to share this time with you, and to know that we have created experiences that will last a lifetime with more than 22,500 backcountry participants and *for each other*.

My prayers go out to you as you venture out across the country to engage in new opportunities. I look forward to working with you during the summer of 2009, when we once again create new memories and friendships.



photos by Adam Hosterman, Conservation

Above: *“One of Those Days at Ewells Park”* –
2nd Place Overall and 1st Place for Landscape.

Left: *“Apache Sunrise”* – *3rd Place Overall and 1st*
for Sunrise/Sunset



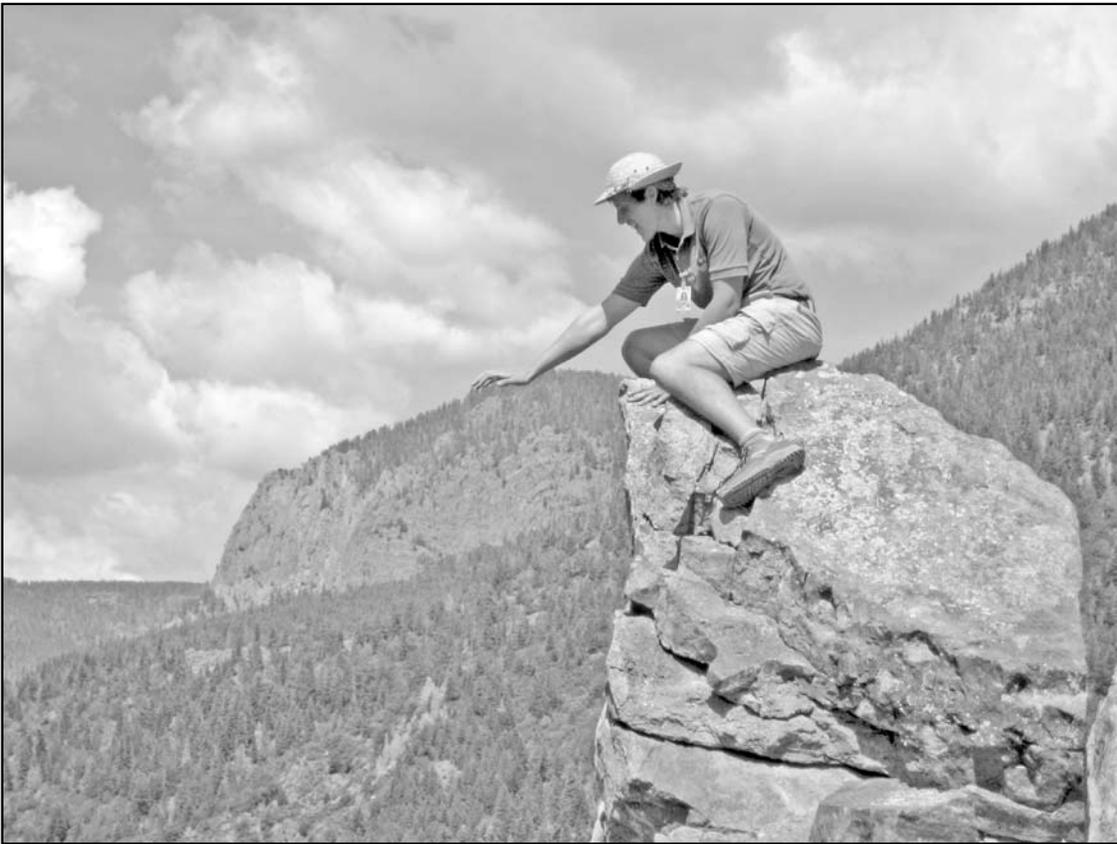


Top: *1st Place for Storms/Rainbows.*

photo by Heather Davis, PTC Services

Above: *“Orange!” – 1st for Flowers/Plants*

photo by Kyle Anderson, Ranger



Top: *“The wild life was last night!” – 1st Place for Wildlife*
Above: *“Pet the buffalo” – 1st for Humor*

photo by Henry Watson, Services
photo by John Scherschel, Ranger



Top: “P Dutty” – 1st Place for Digital Creation

Above: “ROCS on the Rock Wall” – 1st for Camper Activity

photo by Dom Alessandrini, Clark’s Fork

photo by Adam Hosterman, Conservation



“Shadows” – 1st Place for Black and White **photo by Steve Hentzelman, Security**

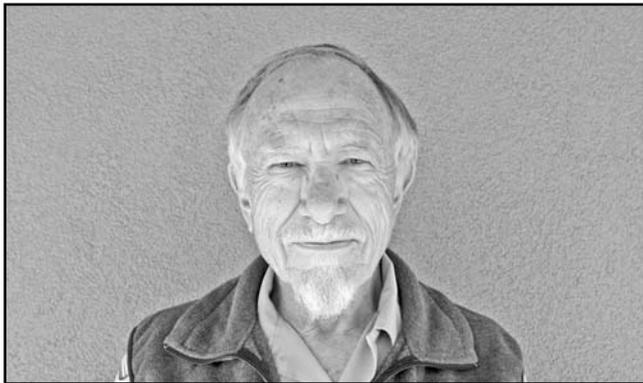
And let’s not forget...

Congratulations also to Zachary Sinsheimer, Matt Carpenter, Troy Caldwell, Jacob Chapman, Russell Smart, Dan Schwedhelm and Lindsey Hickman, all of whom also had winning photos in the competition.

Be sure to check out all the winning photos – in full color! – on the north wall of the staff dining hall.

Thanks to all 26 staffers who entered the contest, and congratulations to those who won!

I'd always wondered...



by Gordon Gross

Protestant Chaplain

This is my 13th year at Philmont, and each year before meals we say the Philmont Grace: "For food," etc. Who started that? When? Where? Apparently, I'm not the only one who wondered...

Recently, a PTC participant asked me, "Where did the Philmont Grace come from?"

"I don't know, but I think that I've got another responsibility for you in earning your 'Duty to God' patch this week," I said. "Why don't you go over to the Seton Library and see if you can find out for us?"

He went, he saw, he conquered! Here's the scoop. For all you romantics, I'm sorry – it came from Texas. It was not born on New Mexico soil. Here is the word from the book *The Magic Mountains*, pgs. 232 and 233:

"...It was decided that this beautiful Grace was first used by the Boy Scouts at Worth Ranch near Palo Pinto, Texas. This camp sets (sic) on a hill overlooking the Brazos River and is not far below Possum Kingdom Dam. The buildings were of native stone and it was know as one of the finest Scout camps in the West.

"...Worth Ranch was definitely the earliest camp to use the Grace. The other camps in the vicinity liked

it and were quick to copy it. (This was in the '30s.) At that time we thought that Faust Nobles wrote the words. He was a Field Scout Executive in the Council and led the singing at the campfires. He also wrote, at a later date, some Philmont verse. A few Scouters felt that Frank Kidd might have written it. He was the camp director and lived at Worth Ranch for several years.

"In 1943, C.E. Dunn brought a group to Philmont from the Ft. Worth Area Council. We were greatly impressed with his Scout attitude and ability to work with young men. In 1945 he joined the Philmont staff with the job of developing the Ranger program and with this came the Grace. (My emphasis) It was used frequently and soon it became known as the Philmont Grace. Probably no words have been put together as beautifully, and it is a tribute to the author and to those early Scouters that through Philmont it has become known nation-wide as the Philmont Grace:

Philmont Grace

For food, for raiment,

For life, for opportunity,

For friendship and fellowship,

We thank Thee, O Lord.

Amen

"There is an old axiom relating to man and his needs: first food, then shelter, then raiment (clothing). It is possible the Grace came about through the development of that axiom."

As chaplain here I would add to that thought about the great needs of mankind. I see a major need found in the second chapter of Genesis, a quote from God: "It is not good that the man should be alone..."

Isn't that why we clump together in the dining hall? "For friendship and fellowship, we thank Thee, O Lord!"

Have a great rest of the year!

*May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous,
leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise
into and above the clouds.*

– Edward Abbey