The PhilNews

Issue 7 ~ July 24th, 2009

Special Issue: Double H



Have a thought, idea, complaint, comic or other submission?

The PhilNews welcomes submissions and letters to the editor. Feel free to I-camp your submission to the PhilNews or drop it off at the NPS office. Please remember that all submissions must include your name! For a submission to be considered for the next issue, please have it to us by Monday at 10 AM. (THIS IS A CHANGE) All Submissions become property of Philmont Scout Ranch. We will be taking submission through August 3rd.

Why I am Here...

In a few short days my 12 favorite participants of the summer will arrive at Philmont. Ever since my older bother (and Scoutmaster of our troop) told me that the troop was coming to Philmont I have been excited to see 12 obnoxious Scouts and Scouters stumble off a train in Raton. For two years my Scouting life has taken place in two very different places, and now they finally cross.

Over the last 18 months I helped prepare them for Philmont from helping to pick out hiking boots to talking to parents. In this I gained a much better understanding of the planning, training, and excitement that coming to Philmont creates. Now the roles of Philmont Staff and Scout Leader will cross. That only makes 7.25 one my favorite days of the summer!

Yours in Scouting, Tawny Slaughter

P.S. Anything 725-X tells you about me is totally false and should be immediately forgotten.

News & Photo Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Owen McCulloch

NPS Manager Henry Watson

<u>PhilNews Manager</u> Tawny Slaughter

Writers
Chloe Euston
Justin Lyon
Jordon Shinn

Photography Department

Martin Stamat-Mgr.
Anita Altschul
Patrick Bonz
Rebecca Bost
Chris Ferguson
Caitlin Ficke
Michael Hunter
Adrienne Lalli
Andrea McCurdy

Video Department
Bryan Hayek-Mgr.
Margaret Hedderman
Jennifer Wendel

Marketing Department Kevin Faragher Jeremy Gregory

Cover Photo By: Kevin Faragher

Mark's Minute

Xvxryonx makxs a diffxrxncx.

"Somxtimxs I gxt to thinking that what I do doxsn't mattxr. But whxn I start thinking that way, I rxmxmbxr my old typxwritxr. Most of thx kxys workxd finx most of thx timx. But onx day, onx of thx kxys stoppxd working altogxthxr. And that rxally mxssxed xvxrthing up. So whxn I'm txmptxd to say, I'm only onx pxrson, it won't makx much diffxrncx if I don't do this quitz right, I rxmxmbxr my old typxwritxr. And I say to mysxlf: 'I am a kxy pxrson and nxxdxd vxry much.'"

This is a powerful message that is so true for each member of the Philmont Staff. As I visit with countless participants and read evaluations I am reminded of the truth that is found in this concept that **each one of us is a key person and is needed very much.**

During the past week, we hosted four representatives of the American Camp Association. They visited the Ranch to complete a review of our compliance with the ACA Accreditation Standards for Camp Programs and Services. Through out their visit, they shared experiences that they had had as they encountered various staff members. They were all very positive. They found each of you committed and engaged in the delivery of the Philmont Experience. They found you to be a "kxy pxrson and nxxdxd vxry much."

We met each of the standards to become an accredited camp with the American Camp Association Thank you for delivering the Philmont Experience. We know that you are a "kxy pxrson and nxxded vxry much."

Mark Anderson Director of Program

PS – While visiting the Double H High Adventure Base this past weekend, I found an interesting poster proudly hanging above the fire place at the "Ponderosa" at the Martin Camp. It said, "Employee of the Week – Dan VerPlanke, reason – cleaning 'Bamas rifle for him." Congratulations Dan!

Each member of the Philmont Staff (Philmont and Double H) is truly an **Employee of the Week.**

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I Watch The Rain

By: Justin Lyon

I watched the rain from my porch, and even though it rained, the sun shone brightly. The sky was clear, and the birds were singing a song of beginning.

It was the end of a storm that I knew I had weathered.

So I smiled brightly as I assessed my scars.

A tree had impacted my second-story window. Shingles were sprawled everywhere but my roof. The front door had fallen from its hinges, and the paint on my house had chipped and washed away.

But I couldn't stop smiling, for I knew these scars would not remain for long, as I could fix them with nothing more then a can of elbow grease and a day all to myself.

And so I watched the rain, drop by drop, disappearing into an azure sky.

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PAYROLL DEDUCTION (through July 31)

A Random Interview With Random Scouts



702-M2

Abby Weston, Jessica Pivirotto, Brynna Cooke, Erin Holle, Brenna Closius, Heather Siebert, Emily Weston, Ethan Closius (front)

While sitting outside NPS I saw 702-M2 hike back into base. With seven youth female youth participants and one male I instantly knew than was a crew to interview.

Crew 702-M2

Location: Salem, CT

Favorite Camp: Pueblano, they picked us flowers.

What did you miss from home while on the trail?

Abby: Showers

Jessica: Flush toilets and showers

Brynna: Boat shoes Brenna: Home and Mom

Erin: Brothers

Heather: Food I didn't have to cook

Emily: My dog and home

First thing you want to do when you get home?

Shower and check Facebook

One thing you wish you could have brought?

iPod

Best reactions to being a crew with 7 girls?

"Boys you are not seeing that, it's a mirage" ~ unknown advisor

Favorite quote from your advisors?

"You can't taunt the Boy Scouts even if you are faster"

To Crew Leader and only male youth How was being on a crew with all girls?

Interesting they talk a lot, that's the only difference

To the Girls

How was Ethan as a crew leader?

Great, he dealt with us really well!

Most rewarding thing that happened on the trail?

When guys would assume we had only done a few miles that day and then found out we had done more than they had.

After the interview I learned that Ethan had the option of hiking with the Scout Troop or the Venture Crew. He choose the Venture Crew so he could hike with his sister and help her on the trail. Now that's a good big brother.

The Torn Leaf

By Rabbi Rachmiel (Rock) Tobesman Chaplain

Never ask a storyteller a question without expecting a story for an answer. Recently a ranger was talking about the Wilderness Pledge, and then I remembered a story about a thoughtless act....

It was summertime, a time for relaxation, and for restoring one's strength. A holy rabbi was spending some time with his son in the fields and forest outside their village. The two used to take long walks through the countryside, marveling at the beauty of God's world.

The fields were ripe with their golden harvest of wheat. The swollen sheaves swayed gentle, promisingly, in the gentle breeze, swishing softly to and fro. It felt good to be alive!

They walked along in silence, enjoying the peace of the area, suddenly the father turned to his son, saying, "Just look at the marvel of nature! See how God

has a plan and a purpose for every single stalk of wheat, every puff of wind, the swaying of each blade of grass. Everything is included in God's overall master plan of creation! Is it not marvelous that One so exalted and mighty should consider every tiny, minute speck on this world?"

They continued along the country road, breathing in the fresh air, each one silent with his own thoughts. Soon they came to a forest and continued walking leisurely among the trees. Engrossed in his thoughts, the boy absent-mindedly plucked a leaf off a branch. He held the leaf in his hand and from time to time would unconsciously tear off a bit and throw it away.

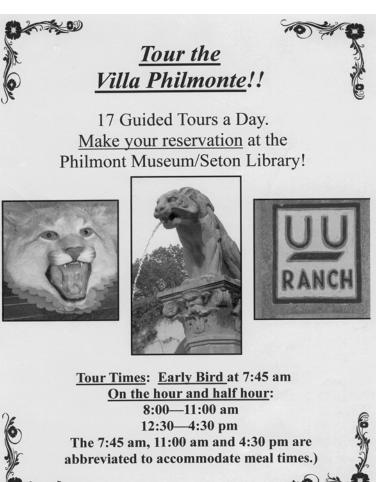
His father noticed what he was doing and commented, "I don't understand how you can do something destructive like that without thinking. Don't you know that even a leaf is part of creation, that it has a purpose? Did I not just tell you how God guides the destiny of every tiny thing, even a leaf? Don't you realize that a leaf is also a living

thing; it breathes and grows. Why is the 'I' of a leaf any different that the 'I' of a human being? To be sure, you can think and speak while it is only a plant. Still, just as you, a human being, have a task to fill in this world, so does this leaf have a purpose to accomplish during its lifetime on this world."

It is important to remember that "when God created the first human beings, He led them around the Garden of Eden and said: "Look at my works! See how beautiful they are. How excellent! For your sake, I created them all. See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world: for, if you do, there will be no one else to repair it."

(Kohelles Rabbah on 7:13)

Rabbi Rock will be telling stories every Monday and Thursday nights at 8 PM in South Tent City at PTC.



Healthy Habits Reminder

As a reminder to keep healthy and avoid getting sick from diseases like the H1N1 virus, the flu or even the common cold, make sure you remember the following healthy precautions:

- If you have a cough or sneeze, remember to cover your mouth to avoid spreading possible infections.
- Wash your hands frequently, especially after using the restroom, or when around food.
- Limit your contact with others if you are ill. Report your illness to the Health Lodge, and rest until you recover.
- Stay hydrated by drinking lots of liquids. If you are thirsty, you are already dehydrated, and need to drink fluids immediately.

Cimarron Municipal Schools

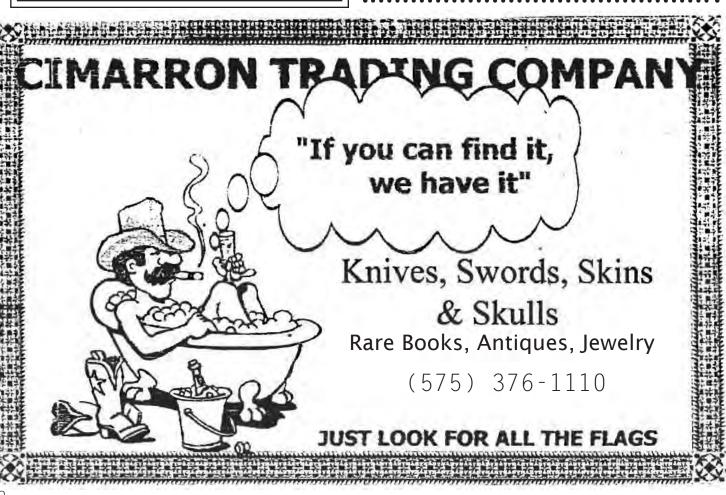
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Dog Days of Summer

By Elder David Wilson Chaplain

Congratulations to all of you on reaching the mid-point in the 2009 Philmont season. For many of us, this is a time of reflection and evaluation on our actions and activities. It is also the "Dog Days of Summer," as many of us are getting hot and a bit worn out at times. With a little help from our canine companions in life, I'd like to share with you some timely thoughts on how each of us can make the rest of our summer here at Philmont successful:

Things We Can Learn from a Dog

- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride or walk in the sunshine
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy
- When loved ones come to visit, always run to greet them
- When it's in your best interest, practice obedience
- Let others know when they've invaded your territory (be gentle, but firm)
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do
- Take naps and stretch before rising
- Run, romp and play daily
- Eat with gusto and enthusiasm
- Be loyal
- Never pretend to be something you're not
- If what you want lies

buried, dig until you find it

- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body
- No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout... run right back and make friends
- Delight in the simple joys of a long walk

I would like to encourage each of you to continue to work on completing the staff requirements for the Philmont Duty to God program and wear that patch with honor this summer. If you have any questions about this program, don't hesitate to contact any of the Chaplains. We'd love to help you meet these requirements. I am so grateful to each of you for your joy and excitement in working with everyone in the Chaplaincy here at Philmont and for your willingness to be of service to all.



Into the Desert

By: Jordon Shinn, PhilNews Writer

The drive from Philmont to Double H is roughly six hours, taking the highway south past Springer, brushing the edge of Santa Fe and busting straight through Albuquerque, then driving two more hours out under the looming sun. But time is lost in the desert, as heat slithers like a dry river over the briary plains and burnt buttes of south-central New Mexico.

• • •

The sun rises quickly without a cloud or event over the ridge. A breeze picks up from the west. Michael is off chasing jackrabbits.

Michael Hunter is my trusty Photographer. And leading us through Double H is our perceptive Wilderness Guide, Christopher Vacek. A WG is the equivalent of a Philmont Ranger, but stays with a crew during its entire week long trek, also acting as a conservationist, leading crews in their conservation projects and performing backcountry maintenance. Vacek is one of the most knowledgeable men I have ever met, well-learned in everything from plumbing to swing dancing.

Together with crew 705-BB we are camped at Gibson Well, an old homestead in a piñon--juniper forest located on the west end of the ranch. The forest is eerily quiet, silent at all hours of the day, save for the ping-ping of an old windmill steadily pumping water out of the ground—the only place safe from the sun. The birds, I suppose, have already taken to the shade of the ridge. Eight A.M. and already the sun has risen to an angle sharp enough to dispel what little shade there is.

Meeting up with Michael, we get our packs and head toward the large windmill. There the crew is filling water bottles and circling up to stretch. Yesterday the Scouts hiked nearly 16 miles. Not bad.

Next to the well I notice a larger, different looking tree than the typical junipers and piñons. Its trunk is wider and taller than the rest, its branches reaching out farther than the other trees, fuller and with longer needles. Its bottom branches brush the ground. This is the perfect tree to shade several people any time of day—a rare object in the desert.

Vacek informs me it's a ponderosa. No. Can't be. Ponderosas are tall and straight with orange bark

and they drop their lower limbs. I draw near to smell its grayish trunk. Sure enough—butterscotch. "They survive how they can—there's barely enough water to sustain them, barely enough to survive," Vacek says. He points out that the tree grows around its dead branches. "They're different in each part of the ranch."

Full with water and stretched, the crew heads out on an old ranch road. Day three. True, there are no hiking trails, but there are plenty of old roads and cattle trails leading obscurely through the desert. We follow closely behind, the crew the temperature rising but the air still cool. This is best time to hike at Double H, if not earlier. After about a mile, the crew stops on the roadside. Dropping their packs, one crewmember unfolds the map and another turns on a GPS, as the crew gathers around. They are searching for a "geocache," or GPS located treasure box. Thirteen geocaches are hidden throughout Double H, and no crew has yet located all of them.

We hike on, reaching the next well within minutes and drop our packs, headed for the geocache before the crew finds it. No need for a GPS. Vacek leads us down into what looks like a dried-up pond—lush, tall, wheatlike grass with paintbrush tips moving in languid unison to the breeze—vivid green vegetation, and delicate white and yellow wildflowers. He informs us that this area collects the water. What water?

Meeting the end of a dry streambed, we step over one-rock dams and passing arc-dams wedged into the sides of the creek. Scouts built these to prevent water erosion, Vacek says. We walk under a taut barbed wire fence of crooked wooden posts, suspend ten feet above the ground, spanning the rising banks of the stream. We pass oddly under the suspended fence toward a small canyon.

Tracing the canyon back nearly 20 yards, the earth walls abruptly stop, rising a sheer 14 feet. At the base of the walls are fallen boulders—and half rooted junipers hang diagonally over the canyon's edge, the soil underneath slowly slipping from their clutch. "In a year they'll be gone," Vacek says. We've reached the "head-cut." Where the earth was soft, surging rains from the monsoon season formed the small canyon,

wide enough to drive a Philburban. The ground here is washing away and taking everything with it. And that lush area we crossed was dug to collect all the water run-off—a near swampland in the desert.

Our guide points off in the direction of the geocache near the base of a large piñon above us on the level ground. We hear the crew coming and make a dash

for the cover behind a large, dead branch lying against the canyon wall, which I had not noticed. We slide in, following Vacek's lead. The crew appears on the canyon rim, moving slowly like a thin line of desert nomads, until they have congregated around the tree and locating the hidden green ammunition box—the geocache.

Back on the old road we head onward to Martin Camp, ahead of the crew. Deviating from the road, Vacek leads us upward over forested hills—a steep trek, our intuition guiding us as much as our compass. At the top of the second hill, we cross a fence line. Vacek then leads us to an old washed-out road cut into the winding canyon's edge. At

the end of the canyon is Martin Camp, the light glinting tauntingly off the barn's metal rooftop like a beacon. There is no direct route down.

After nearly an hour we descend from the canyon and pass the tall wooden corals of Martin Camp. Entering the wide, dirt courtyard, we set our packs at the side of a small cabin to our right. Weathered lava rock and elk bone line the front entrance to the "Ponderosa." The air is so hot I collapse under the shade of the ponderosa. A staff member offers me a cup of sweet tea. I oblige. "We like it sweet," says Program Counselor Daniel Verplancke, grimacing behind a thick red beard. Iced tea sounds divine after hiking through the desert, but I can barely get the first sip down, the sugar is so dense.

Sitting, I survey the area. Across the courtyard is the barn, with the trading post. To my right is a large white yurt, like those at Whiteman Vega or Seally Canyon, the conical canopy resembling a small circus

tent. That's where the staff lives. Beyond the yurt is a row of portable bathrooms. And to my left is the cistern—a tall, circular concrete wall like an above ground swimming pool, where the Martins who lived here stored their water

Lunchtime in the Ponderosa and someone is cleaning a black powder rifle with a soapy rag, charred

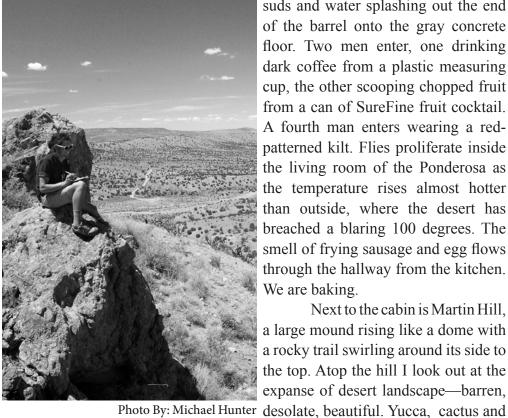
> suds and water splashing out the end of the barrel onto the gray concrete floor. Two men enter, one drinking dark coffee from a plastic measuring cup, the other scooping chopped fruit from a can of SureFine fruit cocktail. A fourth man enters wearing a redpatterned kilt. Flies proliferate inside the living room of the Ponderosa as the temperature rises almost hotter than outside, where the desert has breached a blaring 100 degrees. The smell of frying sausage and egg flows through the hallway from the kitchen. We are baking.

> Next to the cabin is Martin Hill, a large mound rising like a dome with a rocky trail swirling around its side to the top. Atop the hill I look out at the expanse of desert landscape—barren,

prairie grass. Vacek takes out his binoculars and aims them toward the largest of visible landforms, Elephant Butte, rising like a prehistoric castle to our left—dark rock and jagged cliff. He hands me the binoculars. I zoom in on a large O and X spelled with rocks on top of the butte. Vacek explains Doubles H's neighbors live there, the local Native Americans. "It's one of those things," Vacek says. "We leave them alone, they leave us alone."

That night the Scouts gather around an old well on the backside of camp, where the staff have built up a large bonfire of dried juniper. The smoke billows upward like fragrant incense. There, the staff tells the tall tales of Martin Ranch and Chester, the old ranchhand who roams Double H, monitoring water supplies and trapping coyotes.

"One of the best things I hear about the Double H is it's like a coral snake," says Camp Director Edwin Terell, "—very austere and dangerous to behold."



A Return To Double H

By: Kevin Faragher Photo By: Michael Hunter

I will be the first to admit, I am an idiot. It has been six years since my first visit to Double H as a participant, and I am standing in the parking lot completely unprepared for going into the backcountry on the night of our arrival.

As my group scrambles to gather their gear and figure out who is tenting with whom, I look around at a base camp that has barely changed since 2004. The only addition I see is an extra trailer for the trading post. A house surrounded by tents, some trailers that serve as storage and offices, and scattered cattle gates leave Double H looking the way I left it the summer before my senior year in high school.

People always ask me "So, did you go on a trek to Philmont?" and my reply is always "No, but I did hike Double H!" This is always followed with same question of "Oh, what is that place like?"

It is hard to explain Double H in a way so that people can really grasp the amazing experience it provides. Start by considering minimalism at its best. Think of a landscape where you can see for hundreds of miles just by looking over your shoulder. Think of hills scarred by deep ravines with nothing by scrub bushes and Alligator Junipers for shade. Now unzip the upper pocket of your backpack and put the sun in there to understand how hot it gets and you are starting to get the picture.

On the first of our trip we are dropped off at one of the turnaround camps. The camp, named Deep Well, is where crews either spend their first night or last night on the trail. I meet a crew from Birmingham Alabama who are on their last day, and I decide to tag around with them for the night. Their Wilderness Guide is a man by the name of Nate Thomas, who is working his third summer at Double H.

Nate explains to me what makes a good Wilderness Guide as the crew walks up to a rock formation known as Birthday Cake where they plan on finding their last geocache site. Nate says, "I really try to let the crew and the crew leader make the decisions. Even if I know that what they are about to do is wrong or might not be the best decision, I stand back and just let them go."

After peering out over the vast plain from atop Birthday Cake, Nate leads the group back to the



campsite for closing ceremony. For two years I have worked on Activities Staff and lead many closing campfires. Philmont's closing campfire is full of dazzling images and high-energy crowd participation. It is not uncommon for a Scoutmaster or advisor to come backstage in tears after the campfire. At Double H, Nate removes a lantern from a bear box on a hill in the campsite and takes it down to the crew. I recognize the punched tin lantern instantly as the same

lantern used at my closing ceremony in 2004. The crew takes turns reflecting on their trek quietly under the moon in nothing but the orange glow of the lantern. In the year that Double H is closing, I find one advisor's reflection of "there were just so many firsts" especially meaningful as the group sits illuminated by an almost full moon. I can honestly say that Double H's closing ceremony, filled with personal quiet reflection, is just as effective and moving as Philmont's. Like I said earlier, think of minimalism at its best.

There have been noticeable changes at Double H including a cleaner water system for participants and improved bathroom options at camps. The biggest changes exist in the individuals who have been lucky enough to experience Double H in all it has to offer. The chubby kid from 2004 knows the pride that comes with completing a trek at Double H.

To be an employee at the Double H you have to be disciplined, willing to sacrifice, and dare I say it, hardcore. I forever have respect for the men and women who serve at Double H. I recognize that people like Joe Splinter, my Wilderness Guide in 2004, and Nate Thomas have a lasting impact in lives of Scouts. In three days at Double H, I met people who have been coming back for their second, third, even sixth summer who have made lasting friendships and memories that will exist even after the Double H closes.

Nate told my about a crew who on their last night were lying out under the stars. One boy said, "These stars would be perfect if it weren't for that cloud in the way." Nate told the boy, "That's the Milky Way."

When you think of Double H, think of the people, think of personal growth, and think of minimalism at its best.

VISITING FORESTER FOR PHILMONT

News Release from Mary Stuever

Hunting Lodge is hosting a visiting forester. New Mexico forester and former Philmont staff member, Mary Stuever is spending five days helping Philmont increase forestry education and understanding. Stuever is the statewide Timber Management Officer, but she is working with the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee and the local Cimarron District office in Ute Park on a grant provided by the American Forest Foundation in Washington D.C. to expand forestry knowledge at the ranch.

"Philmont already has an excellent forestry program," Stuever explains, "but this grant is more about forestry education. One of our goals is to start interpreting the forestry activities that are occurring on the ranch."

One of her key partners is Philmont's consulting forester Harry Morrison. Morrison is also the chairman of the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee. With the help of Morrison and other area forestry businesses, the Philmont Demonstration Forest was developed above Cimarroncito Reservoir along the trail between Hunting Lodge and Clarks Fork. Arnie Friedt, with the State Forestry office in Ute Park, is another key partner, and is developing permanent signs for the demonstration forest as a part of the grant.

Mary plans to spend the bulk of her time interacting with crews in the demonstration forest. Her goal is to develop a handbook that will lay the foundation for a future "Visiting Forester program" similar to the "Visiting Geologists" at the mining camps. Former Philmont staff member and forester Doug Cram is also planning to assist with the project.

Mary will be at Philmont from July 17 to 21, and returns Friday, July 24 for a booksigning at the Seton Museum at 1 P.M. Stuever's latest book, The Forester's Log: Musings from the Woods, was published this spring by UNM Press. The book is a collection of over 100 stories, many which include references to Philmont. Philmont is currently distributing a copy of the book to each of the backcountry camps.

2009 PSA Annual Reunion Schedule of Events

Frida	у, Т	Jul	y	24th

1:00 рм	Check-in Opens @ Rayado
1:00 рм	Mary Stuever Book Signing @
	Philmont Museum & Seton Library
1:00 рм	Kit Carson Activities
2:30 рм	Rayado Ruffians Performance
4:00 рм	Tour of Holy Child Chapel
6:00 рм	Dinner @ Rayado
8:00 рм	Candlelight Walk @ Rayado
	Cracker Barrel

Breakfast @ Rayado

Saturday, July 25th

7:00 AM

8:00 am	Era and Family Pictures taken by News
	& Photo Service
8:00 am	Silent Auction Opens
9:00 am	Hikes: T-Rex Print Hike
	Lovers Leap Hike
	Urraca Trail Hike
9:00 am	Kit Carson Activities
10:30 ам	Rayado Ruffians Performance
12:00 рм	Lunch: Taste of Cimarron Grill-out @
	Rayado
1:30 рм	Silent Auction Closes
2:00 рм	Silver Sage Award Presentation @
	Rayado
2:30 рм	PSA Annual Meeting @ Rayado
4:30 рм	Depart for Backcountry Dinner
	Zastrow
	Abreu
	Carson Meadows
9:00 рм	Zeke Palnick Porch Talk @ Rayado
	Cracker Barrel

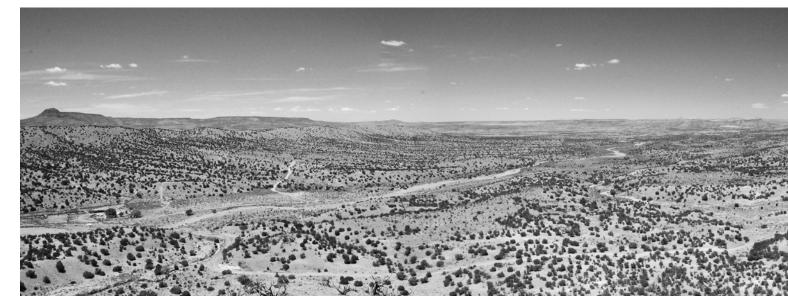
Sunday, July 26th

7:00 AM

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8:00 am	Mass @ Holy Child Chapel
9:00 am	Tooth of Time Hike (meet at Lovers
	Leap Turnaround)
9:00 am	Kit Carson Activities
9:00 am	PSA Treks Check-in @ CHQ Welcome
	Center
1:00 рм	PSA Service Project Begins

Breakfast @ Ravado

Double H: A



In the fall of 2003, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation made an agreement with Philmont Scout Ranch to begin a youth program on the Torstenson Family Wildlife Center. This program, called the Double H after the former name of the ranch on which it is located, was launched the summer of the following year providing participating crews with unique navigation and conservation opportunities not available in Philmont's programs.

The Double H ranch's history is rich in ancient Indian lore, Spanish conquistador and settler explorations, and mining and cattle herding. However, the earliest point of relevance in the story of the Double H High Adventure Base begins in 2000 with a man by the name of Robert "Bob" Torstenson. Torstenson, an avid sportsman and conservationist, was taken with the untamed and wild expanse of land that was the Double H ranch. He purchased the ranch and its 95,000 acres with funds from the sale of his family's tool-making company, Duo-Fast. His goal, to provide hunters, ranchers, wildlife enthusiasts, conservationists, and youth groups such as the Boy Scouts a place to enjoy the pure glory of the untamed wilderness.

Robert Torstenson died two years later, on May 7th, 2002 at the age of 51. Torstenson had been diagnosed

six months prior with an aggressive stomach cancer, a condition that failed to stop him from advancing his vision. He donated the Double H ranch and its 95,000 acres of land to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for the enjoyment from outdoorsmen of years to come.

The Double H ranch was named by the previous owner in honor of his wife's family, the Herrings of Amarillo, and his former oil business, the Halliburton Company. After the donation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation rechristened the Torstenson Family Wildlife Center in honor of Torstenson and his dedication to conservation and wilderness appreciation. Also closely following the donation came a partnership between Philmont Scout Ranch and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to start a program dedicated to the spirit of conservation and preservation as well as the principles of Leave No Trace. The Boy Scout high adventure base, Double H, began the next year in 2004, bearing the name of the former ranch.

The most noticeable difference between Philmont and Double H is that Double H has no established trail system, and crews have to find their way to the next stop with the help of orienteering skill and a GPS. Crews hike with a Wilderness Guide who stays with the crew to help them for the entirety of the

Brief History

By: Justin Lyon, PhilNews Writer



seven day trek. Because there are no trails, hiking is done differently side by side rather than one by one, to minimize impact on the land. There is only one staffed camp, Martin, which is the midway point in the Double H itinerary. All this is supplemented by astronomy programs, conservation projects, Leave No Trace camping and GPS technology training. One example of

Double H's GPS program is geocaching, a "treasure hunt" of sorts where crews use their GPS to track down boxes hidden all throughout Double H. When a crew finds a geocache they can leave behind a note or something else that signifies that they found it.

The program at Double H ran for six years, from 2004 to 2009. Sadly, 2009 is the last projected year for the Double H

year for the Double H
program. Dave Kopsa, the Base Director at Double
H, said, "The reason Double H is closing is that the
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has decided to make
a new long range plan for the property and is unable to

provide Philmont with a long term commitment which Philmont needed to make improvements to the current program. We wish them the best of luck and success with this very beautiful piece of property."

What is the future for Double H? Conservation and restoration of the land will continue on as volunteers and outdoor enthusiasts from all around come to enjoy

> the natural beauty of this wild and undeveloped landscape. The efforts of these enthusiastic visitors may s o m e d a y bring Robert Torstenson's vision to fruition As Torstenson

said before his



Photo by: Rebecca Bost

death, "I hope that there's a window in heaven, so that I can look down and see good things happening on the Double H."

American League						
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Boston	55	36	.604	-	L2	6-4
NY Yankees	54	37	.593	1	W3	6-4
Tampa Bay	51	41	.554	4.5	W3	7-3
Toronto	46	47	.495	10	W2	4-6
Baltimore	41	50	.451	14	W1	5-5
CENTRAL	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Detroit	48	42	.533	-	L3	4-6
Chicago Sox	47	44	.516	1.5	L1	5-5
Minnesota	47	45	.511	2	L1	5-5
Kansas City	37	54	.407	11.5	L6	2-8
Cleveland	36	57	.387	13.5	L3	3-7
West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
LA Angels	52	38	.578	-	W2	7-3
Texas	49	41	.544	3	W1	4-6
Seattle	49	43	.533	4	W3	6-4
Oakland	38	52	.422	14	L2	4-6
National League						
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Philadelphia	51	38	.573	-	W8	9-1
Atlanta	46	46	.500	6.5	W1	7-3
Florida	46	47	.495	7	L3	3-7
NY Mets	43	48	.473	9	L1	4-6
Washington	26	65	.286	26	L5	1-9
West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
LA Dodgers	58	34	.630	-	W2	6-4
San Francisco	50	41	.549	7.5	W1	6-4
Colorado	50	42	.543	8	W1	7-3
Arizona	39	53	.424	19	L1	6-4
San Diego	37	55	.402	21	L1	2-8
CENTRAL	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
St. Louis	51	43	.543	_	W1	6-4
	47	43	.522	2	W4	6-4
Chicago Cubs	7/					
Chicago Cubs Milwaukee	47	45	.511	3	L1	4-6
		45 46	.511	3 4	L1 L2	4-6 6-4
Milwaukee	47					

Blue Moon Eclectics

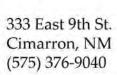


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Golf

<u>Watson loses,</u> <u>Cinks wins British Open</u>

Late Sunday evening at Turnberry, Scotland, Stewart Cinks won the British Open for his first major career win in a four-hole playoff. He overcame Tom Watson, the 59-year-old favorite to win the cup, when Watson double bogeyed on the 72nd hole. Watson was a five time winner who had undergone a hip replacement surgery last October, and he was hoping to make a return win on the green, and very nearly succeeded, losing by only six shots.

NASCAR

81-year-old drives in NASCAR

NASCAR legend Hershel McGriff, 81 years old, participated in the Camping World West series in Portland, Oregon on Sunday. In doing so McGriff is now the oldest driver to ever compete in a NASCAR race. He placed 13th out of 26 drivers. McGriff has competed in various NASCAR races throughout his life, and over the course of his career has won 4 races in 85 Sprint Cup-level starts. McGriff began racing in 1945, five years before the creation of NASCAR, and his exploits have earned him a spot in the Motorsports Hall of Fame. McGriff's future in NASCAR hasn't ended with this race, though. In June he attempted to qualify for a Sonoma, California race, although he didn't make the cut, and he is planning on attempting to qualify in August for a race in Tooele, Utah.

Cycling Le Tour de France

Stage 12

Mark Cavendish of Team Columbia-HTC sprinted long for the Stage 12 win—his fourth stage win in this year's Tour—taking the green jersey from Thor Hushovd of Cervelo-Test Team. Another victory for Columbia saw an astonishing defeat for the Astana team.

Levi Leipheimer of team Astana crashed around a left turn late in the stage, inside the last three

kilometers to the peloton. He broke a bone in his wrist and withdrew from the Tour. This is a serious blow to Lance Armstrong and the Astana team.

Leipheimer is one of four potential podium finishers for the Astana team, including Armstrong, Alberto Contador and Andreas Kloden. He was in fourth place overall, behind Armstrong, when he crashed.

In a televised interieview with Versus, Leipheimer said his legs were, "floating,"—describing his superb physical condition leading up to the decisive Stage 15—the first of three stages in the Alps.

A loyal teammate with Armstrong, Leipheimer is a steadfast climber and adept time trialist. The aging Armstrong would have needed his help to pull him though the alps and set the pace through the mountains

Stage 15

Sunday, after nearly two weeks of racing, the Tour de France finally reached the first of three grueling stages in the Alps, on Sunday. In Stage 15, where all the Tour contenders fought brutally for the win. But it was Alberto Contador who proved he was the strongest on the mountain and the leader of the Astana team.

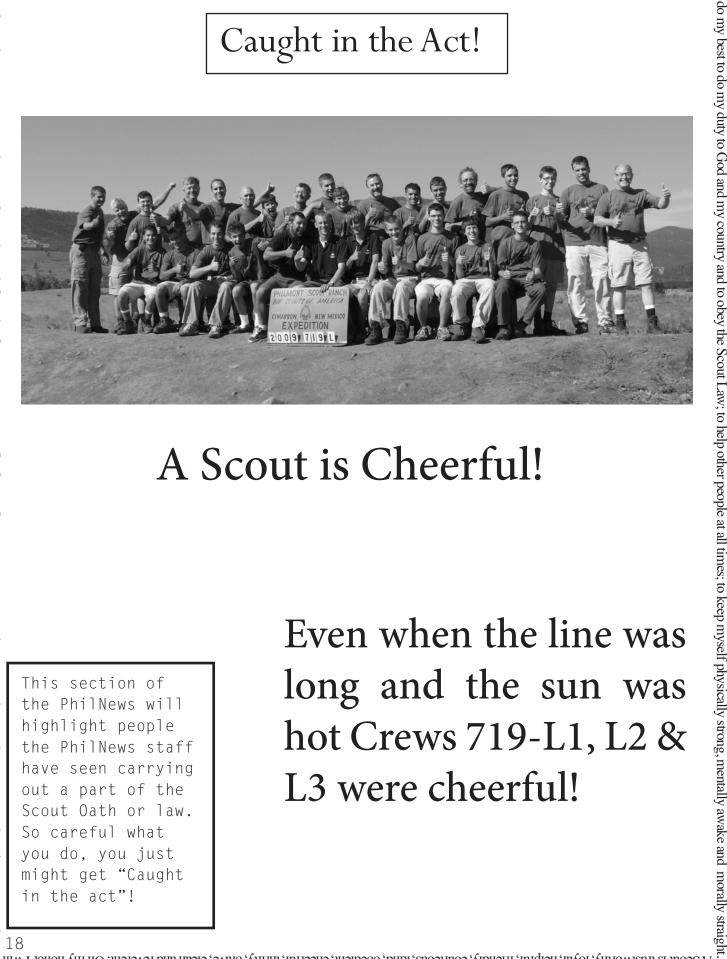
On the final 8.8km climb of the day up to Verbier, Contador blasted away from an elite group of riders including teammates Lance Armstrong and Andreas Kloden, Bradley Wiggins, Andy Schleck, Cadel Evens and Carlos Sastre. The only one to counter attack was Schleck, who could not catch Contador.

Schleck crossed the line 40 seconds behind Contador, finishing the day fifth overall at 2:26 and gaining the white jersey for best young rider. But his eyes are set on the maillot jaune.

Lance Armstrong fell to the back of the group, Kloden pulling him up the mountains to finish 1:35 behind Contador—close enough to maintain his second place General Classification at 1:37 back.

Contador gained the maillot jaune. Can he keep it, or will the young Schleck, leader of team Saxo Bank, prove he is the rightful owner of the yellow jersey? Everything is proven in the mountains. The tour ends this Sunday in Paris.

Caught in the Act!



A Scout is Cheerful!

This section of the PhilNews will highlight people the PhilNews staff have seen carrying out a part of the Scout Oath or law. So careful what you do, you just might get "Caught in the act"!

Even when the line was long and the sun was hot Crews 719-L1, L2 & L3 were cheerful!

PhilNews

Philmont Staff Photo Contest

2009 Entry Form

Name	
Danartmant	<u>Category (circle one</u>

Photo Title

Rules and polices for contest

- 1. Photos must be of scenes at Philmont or the Double H, and must have been taken this summer by a current staff member.
- 2. No digital alterations are permitted, except in the "Digital Creations" category.
- 3. Photos, memory cards, CD ect. can be I-camped to Activities or sent to philmontpc@yahoo.com. They can also be dropped off at the Activities office.
- 4. All photos will be printed in 8 X 10 size. Printed photos will be scanned and reprinted.
- 5. All photos submitted become property of Philmont Scout Ranch.
- 6. All photos must have your name, title of photo, and category with the picture. Any photos missing one of these will not be accepted.
- 7. Photos must be submitted by July 29th.

Landscape

Sunrise & Sunset

Storms & Rainbows

Flowers & Plants

Wildlife

Humor (no vulgarity)

Digital Creations

Staff Activity

Camper Activity

Black & White

Porch View





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Honduran Mediation Talks Reach Deadlock

Costa Rican's President Oscar Arias made a seven-point proposal Saturday for the reinstatement of Honduras's ousted president. Arias led mediation talks between ousted President Manuel Zelaya and interim President Roberto Micheletti, who took over June 28. Arias's plan included a creating a unity government headed by Zelaya, granting amnesty to all parties, moving elections from November to October and ending attempts to change the constitution. Zelaya accepted this plan, but both sides maintained conflicting stances. Zelaya said the only thing to talk about was his reinstatement, while Micheletti insisted it was not up for discussion. Zelaya has said he will return to Honduras and set up a parallel government, despite the fact that Micheletti has said he will be arrested if he tries to return.

India Refuses to Accept
Compulsory Emissions Targets

Indian officials said Sunday that India will not accept legally binding caps on carbon emissions, saying that such a move would undermine the country's economic growth. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was on a three-day visit to India when environment minister Jairam Ramesh told her that the country would not accept the emissions targets. The US House passed a bill on June 26 that would put carbon-based tariffs on countries such as India and China if they do not accept compulsory targets by 2020. Clinton said that accepting such a plan would not inhibit economic growth.

British Backpacker Admits to Being a "Total Idiot"

A 19-year-old British hiker was rescued from Australia's Blue Mountains after spending 12 days alone in the woods. Jamie Neale appeared on Australia's "60 Minutes" Sunday and admitted he was "a total idiot." He began his hike July 3,

wearing light clothing and taking with him two bread rolls and a small bottle of water. He expected his hike to last only a few hours, but he began to get lost when he fell in water and ended up on the wrong side of a valley. Temperatures in the Blue Mountains, 60 miles west of Sydney in New South Wales, were 32 F at night. Neale said he survived by eating seeds and weeds but was unable to build a fire. He wrote goodbye letters to his family and feared he would starve to death. On July 15 he came to a camp where the two hikers that brought him to safety were staying. He stayed in a hospital for two days, for treatment of dehydration and exposure. He was paid 200,000 Australian dollars for his appearance on the show.

United States is Ready to Talk With North Korea

The United States wants the UN to punish Pyongyang for nuclear tests but is ready to hold talks with North Korea if the conditions are right. North Korea has said it is boycotting talks to end its nuclear arms program in order to defend itself against the US. The US agreed Saturday to set up official talks with Japan to boost nuclear deterrence and protect Tokyo. Kurt Campbell, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said the US and Japan will set up a special working group in Washington to hold a deep discussion about nuclear deterrence, or boosting what is known as the "nuclear umbrella"

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Swine flu vaccine in the works

A vaccine for the H1N1 virus, otherwise known as swine flu, is being developed and is expected to be ready by mid-October according to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. The virus was first detected earlier this year in Mexico, and quickly north into the United States, Europe, and other nations in the northern hemisphere. This vaccine will mark the first major vaccine campaign against a strain of swine flu since 1975, when cases of swine flu emerged among soldiers at Fort Dix, NJ. The US government vaccinated around 40 million Americans during that campaign, and although no pandemic occurred thousands filed injury claims saying they suffered extreme side effects to the vaccine. Since the 1980s several new laws were passed to help protect vaccine makers from lawsuits.

48 injured in rail trains collision

On Saturday, two light rail transit cars from the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency collided, injuring 48. 44 riders were treated for minor injuries, while four more were hospitalized due to more serious injuries. On Sunday officials said that there were no casualties and none of the injuries were considered to be life threatening. Two investigators from the National Transit Safety Board arrived in San Francisco to help officials on Sunday to determine the cause of the crash. Initial reports state that a one-car train traveling at a low speed collided with a stationary train on a platform around West Portal Station. The conductor for the moving train allegedly miscalculated a turn, causing the trains to collide.

Space shuttle launches after several delays

The space shuttle Endeavour successfully launched from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida on Wednesday, July 16 at 6:03 P.M. after dealing with three delays in a row. The launch of Endeavor was postponed three days in a row, which made for a total of five delays since mid-June.

Adverse weather was the official cause of three of the delays, while hydrogen gas leaks caused the other two. The Endeavor carried seven astronauts as well as the final proponent of Japan's Kibo science laboratory to the International Space Station on a projected 16-day mission. The crew of the Endeavor prepared Sunday for

the first of five scheduled spacewalks. The Endeavor is expected to arrive at the International Space Station on Friday to deliver supplies and install the final portion of the Kibo lab.

NASA releases new moon walk videos

NASA released a restored video of the original moonwalk last Thursday to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the time that the first men took their monumental first steps on the moon. The release was part of a larger Apollo 11 moonwalk restoration project. The project contains 15 key moments from the historic lunar landing. The videos were restored by the company Lowry Digital of Burbank, California, which specializes in restoring old Hollywood films and videos. The refurbished moonwalk videos were posted on NASA's website including a side-by-side montage of the refurbished video alongside the original video for comparison. These are just the first of several videos to be released. When completely restored, the series will total about three hours of material.

5 wounded, 2 killed in New Jersey shoot out

Early in the morning of Thursday, July 16th, in a shoot out with police in Jersey City, New Jersey, Five police officers were wounded, and two suspects were killed in the exchanging gunfire. The shooting began when one of the suspects, dressed in what the officers described as "priest clothing" opened fire with a shotgun on police as they were monitoring vehicles suspected as being involved in a recent armed robbery. The shot grazed one officer on his leg. The two suspects fled to a nearby apartment and continued to fire upon the officers. Police called for backup from Port Authority to help infiltrate the building and evacuate the other residents. Four more officers were wounded and the two suspects were killed in the ensuing gunfire. Of the five wounded officers, the two most serious were in critical but stable condition, one from two shots to the face, and the other from a shot to the back of the neck. Thanks to extraordinary efforts from medical personnel the two officers survived.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince Review

By: Justin Lyon, PhilNews Writer

Here we are again, like clockwork, presented with another movie adaptation from the popular Harry Potter franchise. J.K. Rowling's brainchild has ensnared, engaged, and bewildered hundreds upon thousands of fans, and year after year Hollywood capitalizes upon the popular books by popping out one box office behemoth after another. Years go by and we watch young Harry Potter and friends grow up on screen before us. Now six movies in, Harry Potter and cast are no longer the young, bright-eyed wizards we first saw on the big screen. They have grown up to be much darker and more provocative.

Installment six follows Harry during his sixth year at the wizard school Hogwarts. Followers of the dark wizard Voldemort are tearing up London, and the wizarding world is in a state of absolute terror. Harry Potter is charged with luring and coercing information about Voldemort's past from Hogwart's newest professor, Horace Slughorn. All the while Harry and friends must deal with rising amounts of teen angst and raging hormones.

The problem is, the movie focuses far too much on said raging hormones. A good portion of the movie plays out like some kind of teen romance rather than portraying the magic that drew so many fans to begin with. While there are several funny, amusing, and impressive moments in the film, most of them could have been dropped for the sake of progressing the story.

As expected from the treatment of the other films, large amounts of the plot were glazed over or simply left out, with a couple controversial scenes added that were not related to the source material and cause slight continuity issues. Many important plot points are under-explained or simply forgotten, while several unimportant ones are given far too much focus. Due to the cuts and poorly described content, hard-core Potter fans will find themselves heavily disappointed, and newcomers to the series will be scratching their heads in utter confusion.

The lack of continuity and frequent under (and in some cases, over) explanation of plot elements leaves much to be desired. Perhaps if the focus were less on the teen love drama subplots and more on subplots that the very title of the movie implies (namely the "Half-Blood Prince") then it would be much more entertaining.

The thing is, this movie is a transitional piece. It bridges the gap and sets up the plot points for the final two-part movie. However, with the misguided and unclear plot elements, the set up is faulty and disappointingly vague.

Hardcore fans will see this one way or the other, but if you have yet to enter the world of Harry Potter, there is little in this movie to draw you.

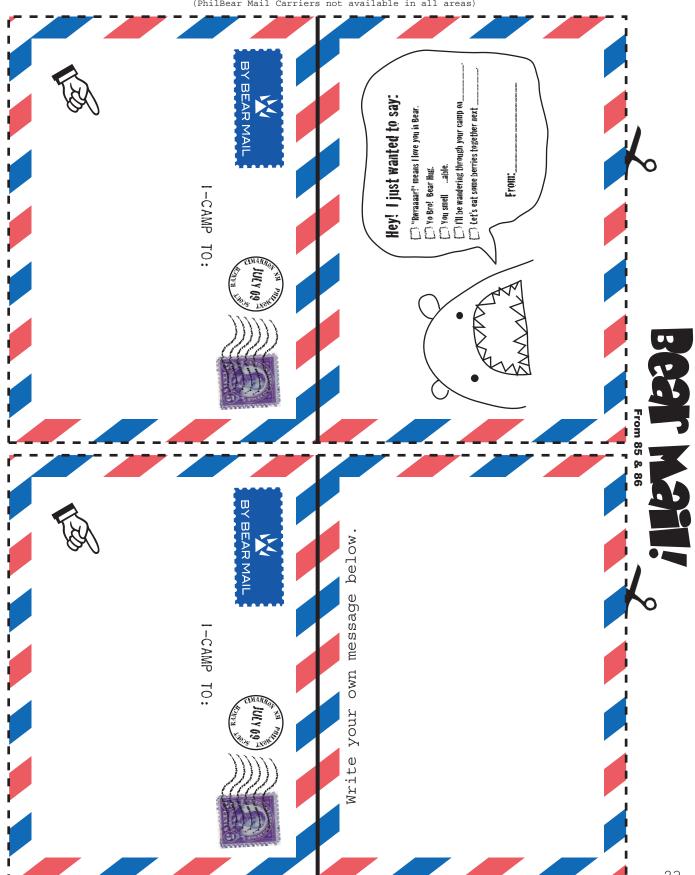






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(or send/bring to Villa Museum)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: SATURDAY, JULY 25th, 6:00 PM

"VILLA ART CHALLENGE" AGREEMENT

I understand that photographs, drawings, paintings and any accompanying written material created by me for the "Villa Art Challenge" during my employment by Philmont Scout Ranch are available for the use of Philmont Scout Ranch in any way that may be determined by the Ranch Management, including making photographs or copies of the material that may be used as display or promotion material. The original material will remain the property of the person submitting to the contest.

Printed Name of Philmont Staff Member Signature of Staff Member Date

PSA Raiding Rayado

The Philmont Staff Association's annual reunion will be on the weekend of July 24-26, 2009. This year's gathering is called the Rayado Rendezvous and will be located on the grounds of the Kit Carson Museum. This venue will offer PSA members and guests a unique experience... a taste of the backcountry... literally. Attendees will have the option to dine at Zastrow, Abreu, or Carson Meadows on Saturday evening. Plus, the Kit Carson staff will be on hand to share their interpretive program and music that weekend. PSA members will take part in activities at Rayado and also take some of Philmont's best day hikes, including the Tooth of Time.

You are invited to come down to Rayado that weekend and join in the festivities. There are several activities that you can enjoy alongside some of your fellow Philstaff from generations past. Over 100 PSA members will be in attendance, with staff experience spanning most of Philmont's history. This is a great opportunity to meet kindred spirits and share stories, make new friends, and even network with people who have a lot to offer.

Firstly, be sure to stop by the Philmont Museum on Friday afternoon (starting at 1:00 pm) to visit with Mary Stuever, forester, author, and PSA member. She'll be signing her book "The Foresters Log" that afternoon. On Friday night, July 24, come for a Candlelight Walk of the Kit Carson grounds. Hear stories and music provided by the 2009 Kit Carson staff. The tour starts at 8:00 pm.

There are several events of interest you are welcome to attend on Saturday, July 25th. The annual PSA Silent Auction will start at 8:00 AM (in La Sala @ Rayado). Come pick up some cool Philmont memorabilia and other unique items while also supporting the PSA. The Silent Auction wraps up at 1:30 PM.

The PSA will honor former Museum Director Stephen Zimmer by presenting him with the Silver Sage award at 2:00 PM at Rayado. Mr. Zimmer has written several books about Philmont, Cimarron country, and the characters of the area and still lives in town. The PSA Annual Meeting will follow the award ceremony. You are invited to attend both.

Finally, you should make plans to come down

to Rayado Saturday night (starting at 9:00 PM) for the Rabbi Zeke Palnick Porch Talk. The Porch Talk, a reunion tradition, allows for dialogue from the different faiths represented at Philmont. Also, there will be ice cream served during the talk.

So, as your schedule allows, come down to Rayado and take part in the PSA Rayado Rendezvous. You do NOT have to be a PSA member to join in on the events and fellowship. The Kit Carson staff would also love for you to stop by for a visit.

Following the reunion, sixty PSA members will take to the trail for a five-day trek. Another dozen or so members will be working on a two-day service project at the Demonstration Forest. Take to the opportunity to get to know a PSA member if you get the chance. For more information, I-camp or stop by the PSA office. You can also visit our website at www.philstaff.com.

~ For a full schedule of events see page 15

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The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow.

- * Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

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

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

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

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Last week's Answers

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

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

Trail Gear





Calendar

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
24 5K Run 4 pm Fitness Center CT: Alcohol Soda Can Stove Seton: Mary Stuever Book Signing 1pm PSA Reunion**	25 CT: PHOTOGRAPHY PSA ANNUAL MEETING 2:30 PSA AUCTION AT RAYADO 8-1:30 PM PSA REUNION**	26 Two hand Touch Football 8pm field by Volleyball Courts PTC: Opening Program 8:15pm PTC Brunch 10:30-12:30 CT: History of Philmont And Surrounding Areas PSA Reunion**	27 VOLLEYBALL 8PM @ VOLLEYBALL COURTS CT: DISNEY & THE ENVIRONMENT PTC: WANNA BE BAND & COBBLER 7-9 PM PSA SERVICE PROJECT STORYTELLER 8 PM SOUTH TENT CITY	28 ICE CREAM 8PM SSSAC KITCHEN PTC: BUFFALO BARBEQUE 5:30PM & WESTERN NIGHT 6:30 PM CT: HISTORY OF PHILMONT AND SURROUNDING AREAS PSA SERVICE PROJECT	29 Talent Night 8pm Baldy Pavilion CT: Disney & The Environment Yoga Night Fitness Center 8pm Wise Guys 7pm	30 BRAT DAY 11 AM -1PM BALDY PAVILLION CT: OUTDOOR GEAR PTC: WANNA BE BAND & COBBLER 7-9 PM STORYTELLER 8 PM SOUTH TENT CITY
FRIDAY 31 PHILPROM! 8 PM - MIDNIGHT BALDY PAVILION	Saturday 1 Bazaar 8 pm Baldy Pavilion CT: Outdoor Gear	PSA SERVICE PROJECT SUNDAY 2 WATERMELON CARVING 8 PM BALDY PAVILION CT: LOGISTICS PTC: OPENING PROGRAM 8:15PM PTC BRUNCH 10:30-12:30	Monday 3 Movie Night 8:15 pm SSSAC TV ROOM CT: Entomology PTC: Wanna Be Band & Cobbler 7-9 pm Storyteller 8 pm South Tent City	Tuesday 4 Frisbee 8 pm Lawn by Health Lodge CT: Logistics PTC: Buffalo Barbeque 5:30pm & Western Night 6:30 pm	Wednesday 5 5K Run 4 pm Fitness Center CT: Entomology Wise Guys 7pm	Thursday 6 Jalapeño Eating Contest 8pm Baldy Pavilion CT: Bell Story PTC: Wanna Be Band & Cobbler 7-9 pm Storyteller 8 pm South Tent City

^{**} For a compleat list of events and times see page 13

^{*} Continuing training, held at the Ranger Office at 6:30 PM