

The PhilNews

Issue 9 - August 7, 2009



Parting ways . . .

This will be our last full issue of the PhilNews. Issue Ten will have the winners of the Photo Contest along with a look back at the summer by the PhilNews Staff. As the season comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone who has made this summer great. From the trips down the Rio to backcountry hikes, this summer has been full of memories. I would also like to thank everyone for their submissions to the PhilNews. Soon we will all be heading in our own directions and leaving Philmont. Though I am sad to leave my friends I am looking forward to the challenges and changes fall will bring. I hope everyone has enjoyed the PhilNews this year and I wish you the best in the coming years.

*Yours in Scouting,
Tawny
Slaughter*

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Cover Photo by Tawny Slaughter

Mark's Minute

The Finish Line

As we start the month of August, we realize that another great summer at Philmont Scout Ranch will soon come to an end. I know that you are thinking about returning to home or school and other fall plans and some of you have early departure dates in order to meet upcoming commitments.

I hope that each of you remains **focused on the Philmont Finish Line!**

We still have ...

- Crews arriving until August 14th
- Final Opening Campfire – August 14th
- Crews and Cavalcades on the trail through August 20th
- Final Closing Campfire – August 20th
- Last Departing Date – August 21st
- Final PTC Closing Campfire – August 21st
- Final PTC Participant Departures – August 22nd

Through out the summer I have talked and written about the **Philmont Experience**. I shared a few of your comments:

- Inexplicable, magical experiences transcending time
- Touchstone experiences
- Jaw dropping
- The beauty of nature God created and the fellowship he intended
- Not “I” but “We”
- Monumental!
- A job that doesn't feel like work!
- Genuine friendships
- Continual!

I hope that some of these thoughts describe your personal feelings of your **2009 Philmont Experience**.

I have also tried to relate the fact that each participant leaves this great place with personal feelings of their **Philmont Experience**. That is why the **Philmont Finish Line** is so important. We must continue to deliver the high quality experience all the way to the end. This is the commitment we shared when we started the summer.

Mark Anderson
Director of Program

CONTENTION

By Chloe Euston, PhilNews Writer

Contention: a point advanced or maintained in a debate or argument.

A group of Scouts walks under a sign that reads ‘Contention,’ into the now blinding sunlight leaving their helmets on nails in the wall as they make their exit. They’re out of the mine for ten seconds when a clap of thunder, loud enough to crack the mountain in two, rings out, sending the Scouts to their knees. Everyone’s all right this time.

Before leading Scouts into the mine, Program Counselor Ryan Popa explains some history. As the story goes, a man named Charlie Cypher had this mine in the early 1900s.

His mine never really saw the success he had hoped for. The miners were following a vein of fluoride that they thought would lead them to gold, but such a find never materialized. Despite his awful luck and the men that died in his mine, Cypher stuck around long after the other miners had left. No one really knows what happened to him after that.

After hearing the story of Charlie Cypher and learning a bit about the types of ore found in the mine, Scouts put on helmets and line up single-file to walk into the dark mine. Popa leads them through the mine, stopping to point things out as he goes along.

He stops to explain the different jobs in the mine—drillers, powder monkeys, blasters and muckers. The drillers, as their name would suggest, drill into the mine to lengthen it. The powder monkeys handle the dynamite and the blasters light it. Dynamite was used

in three rounds. The blaster would light it with a long enough fuse to get out before the first blast hit. After the third blast the muckers would go in and shovel out the debris.



Photo By Andrea McCurdy

The gap between the second and third blast was typically the most dangerous time to be in the mine. Many muckers were accidentally killed by this third blast. But as Popa explained, “The blaster is a skilled job. Anyone can be a mucker.” The life of a mucker was hardly an enviable one. Muckers often worked for room and board, barely getting by while performing the most dangerous job in the mine.

Continuing on through the mine, Popa points out some mining carts and a set of tracks. Before long, the Scouts have

reached the end. Their guide asks them to turn off their lights and have a moment of silence for the nine men that died in the back of the mine. The Scouts put their lights away but are not yet silent. Hardly amused, Popa tells them to leave their lights off and ‘muck out’ of the mine on their own. He runs off toward the opening, leaving them in the dark.

The Scouts make their way out, single-file, much more slowly than they walked in. Back in the mine, there is true darkness—no light leaks in and one’s eyes will never adjust. So the Scouts put one hand on the clammy rock wall and one hand in front of them while they stumble forward. Surrounded by cold, dark air, their minds likely return to the words of their guide. He had told them how miners always brought a rat and a canary into the mine. The rat could detect movements

in the Earth, and the canary would always sing. When oxygen levels were too low, the canary would stop singing and die. There is no rat here, no canary, only a vague notion of how to get out. Popa had also told them about Tommyknockers—a miner’s superstition. “They’re a little like leprechauns but a bit more vicious,” he said.

The Scouts are almost out of the mine when sure enough, a Tommyknocker jumps out from the rift! Only it’s not a Tommyknocker, it’s just Popa. Close call.

Somewhere across the clearing, Program Counselor Jimmy Lowe is teaching Scouts the ways of the blacksmith in a smoke-filled forge. The Scouts are making steel J-hooks, being careful not to hit Jimmy’s anvil, the affectionately named Betsey Lou.

Back at the cabin, Program Counselor Rebecca Benson gives a porch talk to a group of Scouts. Camp Director “Slim” Uribe and Program Counselor Kira Redzinak keep close watch over a mischievous mini-bear.

Later that night, the Cyphers Mine staff returns to their spacious and smoky cabin. Over dinner they



Photo By Andrea McCurdy

exchange stories about the mine. Some of them have had experiences similar to that of Program Counselor Jimmy Lowe—a feeling that one is never truly alone in the mine. Sometimes this feeling is a noise, a touch or a strange sighting. At times PCs have sighted some mysterious creature scurrying through the mine. Other PCs have even felt what they described as hands grasping their shoulders from behind while alone in the back of the mine. Many believe that the Contention mine is haunted by the spirit of Charlie Cypher himself, and no one at the table feels inclined to dismiss these stories.

In an older story, a camp director at Cyphers Mine many years ago was getting food from inside the

mine—this was before the camp had a refrigerator. He heard noises in the mine. One of his PCs was playing a trick on him. To teach his staff a lesson, the camp director left the mine and locked the door behind him, locking the prankster alone in the mine. He walked back to the cabin, to find all of his staff sitting at the table. No one had been in the mine that evening.

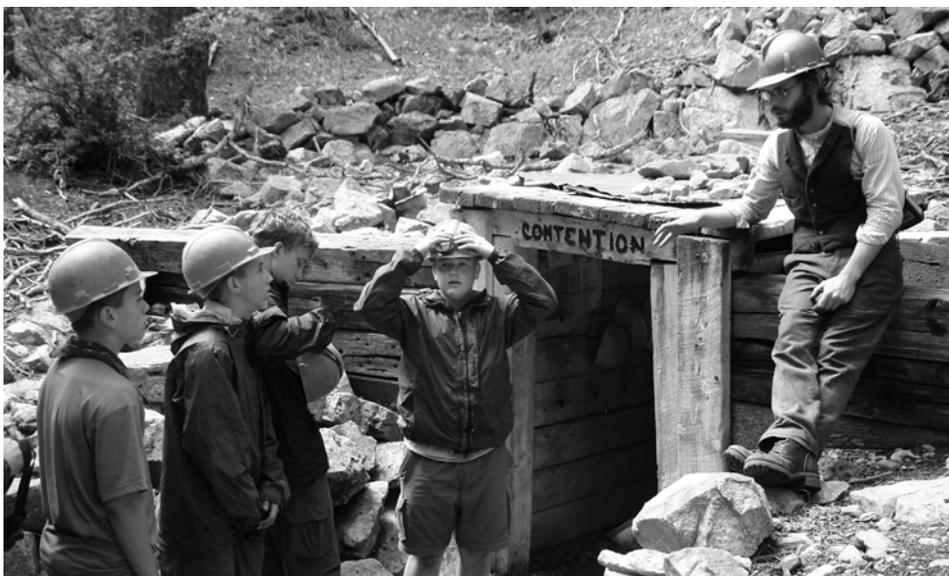


Photo By Andrea McCurdy

What's Your Next Step?



Photo by Nancy Medwell

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Mutterings from the Paymaster

- There is one more payday at Philmont when checks will be distributed—August 14th.
- Your last paycheck will be mailed to you at home, and will not be available for travel money.
- Pick up your check as soon as you can and look at the top portion.
- NOW is the time to stop in and discuss with the Paymaster any shortages, or corrections needed with your paychecks.
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While the history of formal education in Cimarron may predate 1904, Cimarron High School was started as a department of the Cimarron Public Schools in the year 1910.

This school year 2009-2010 we will begin the celebration of 100 years of “Excellence.” Cimarron Municipal Schools have grown and changed over the years but the vision and mission have changed very little. We still strive to provide “Excellent” educational opportunities for the students we serve.

Through the past one hundred years, hundreds of graduates of Cimarron Municipal Schools have gone on to do great things. Among the doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, professors and other professionals are also career military, welders, contractors, police, firefighters, housewives, entrepreneurs and some great employees.

Today, Cimarron Municipal Schools serves over 420 students, in five schools on three campuses, Eagle Nest Elementary/Middle School, Cimarron Elementary/Middle Schools and our “flag ship” Cimarron High School. Each school respectively has excelled in both academics and extracurricular activities.

To help continue our “Legacy of Excellence” I would like to invite all alumni and interested parties to sponsor a student of Cimarron Municipal Schools. All monies collected for the sponsorship of a student will be used for class field trips and student travel. Monies will be distributed from the district office in an equitable manner. We hope with this fund to be able to take students on experiential learning trips to museums, national parks and performances to name a few. Also, if designated, your donation could be used for athletic travel. Cimarron has a history of teams making trips to various state competitions.

This year, as we celebrate one hundred years of “Excellence”, please consider one of the following levels of sponsorship to the Cimarron Municipal Schools “Legacy of Excellence Club.”

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Turning Disaster into Success, My First Trek at Philmont

By Justin Lyon, PhilNews Writer

Since I was a young boy I have been a part of the Boy Scouts of America. I was taught knot-tying, orienteering, proper knife and fire use, first aid, and a bounty of other seemingly useful outdoor skills that I glazed over half-heartedly as I sat wondering when I would finally get the opportunity to do something fun. I didn't see any relevance or use for anything that was taught. I didn't believe I'd ever need those skills.

To that point I hadn't encountered a situation where those skills would have been useful. But when I learned that I had the chance to be one of the first from my troop to go to Philmont, I had heard tales of from my older Advisors who had hiked those trails decades before, I jumped at the chance. I thought I would finally get an experience I could say would last me a lifetime.

I had no idea how right I would be, but not quite in the way I expected.

In 2006 my crew arrived at Philmont. We were nine Scouts strong, with three Advisors including my father, who was one of the driving forces that secured us our chance to come to Philmont. We had prepared as best we could in the flatlands of southern Louisiana. Obviously not the most effective training, but it was all we could manage given the circumstances. We hit the trail, wide-eyed and inexperienced, but nonetheless enthusiastic. It's a shame that it didn't start out very well for us.

A mistake in navigation a few days in sent us down the wrong trail, sidetracking us several hours. We found our way back, strapped for water, heavily dehydrated, but all the more determined. Only a couple days later, one of our Advisors had to be pulled from the trail due to a bout of altitude sickness. We didn't

falter. Little did we know that those slight misfortunes were only a precursor to the true test Philmont had in store for us.

It was our eighth day on the trail. We were just past the Ute Gulch Commissary and heading toward Sawmill when we came across a stretch of trail that had been severely washed away from a recent storm, turning the trail into a steep and slippery slope. The trail was already thin enough. To our left was a drop-off to the valley below and to our right was a wall-like slope overgrown with foliage. The only option would be to take to the weed covered slope above, where hopefully footholds existed. We crossed one by one, until it came time for my father, who was located at the back of the line, to cross. While in mid-stride he slipped, and slid several feet down the washed out trail before being caught by one of my crewmates. The crewmate helped my father out of his backpack, and immediately pulled him back to safety.



Photo Courtesy of Lyon Family

It was instantly apparent that something was wrong. My father was in a clear state of shock, and was drifting in and out of consciousness. In the times he was conscious, he would either attempt to console us that he had only sprained his ankle and would be fine, or talk to people who weren't there. My crew sprang right into action. As per what our ranger told us, we sent out a party of four Scouts back to the Commissary to get help, while the rest of us stayed behind to perform first aid.

We set my father's leg in a makeshift splint of sticks and duct tape, and slowly helped him out of shock and back into a state of constant consciousness. After he was safely splinted and awake, I went to work scribbling madly away, writing up the events that had led to the

incident. After what seemed like ages passed, a pair of Staffers from the Commissary arrived, fashioned a stretcher out of empty backpacks, and carried my father to where he would be picked up and sent back to the base camp Health Lodge for examination.

We were now two Advisors down and for a short time morale was pretty low. Regardless, we steadied ourselves and set out to finish our trek. We blew through Tooth Ridge and brushed up and down the Tooth of Time with a spirited abandon. We rolled into base camp with a surge of energy and a deep feeling of accomplishment. And our first goal was to go see my father and the other Advisor who had been taken off the trail, to show them that we had made it the rest of the way... after we checked in and took showers of course.

My father later gave me the story of what had happened after he was taken off the trail. He had been examined by a doctor at the Health Lodge, who, after removing the stick and duct tape splint, determined that my father had broken his leg and would need to go to the hospital. The doctors at the hospital took x-rays and found that the bone in my father's leg had been set so perfectly that all that was needed was a cast and it would heal on its own. We had done well.

Reflecting on that trek I realized just how ill-prepared I was. I had put half of my effort into learning the skills needed, and I had minimal trail experience. I was a little surprised that I had made it all the way through. But I couldn't help feeling proud. I survived my first trek at Philmont. I saw the view from the Tooth. I grew closer with my crew. We were tested with a first aid emergency that beforehand we had only read about, and we stepped up to the challenge and emerged victorious.

I returned two years later for a second trek in 2008, with my father in tow. With a slew of new information, and a rekindled love of the outdoors, we strolled through on a textbook perfect trek. And this time, my father went home not with a broken leg, but the memory of the view from the Tooth, and I went home with the memory of dragging him up the Tooth by the collar. That second attempt, he had made it, just as much intact as everyone else.

I can't even begin to describe how much those two treks changed my view on Scouting, but I will say with confidence that I would not change either of those experiences for the world.

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This Was A Good Idea Six Months ago. . .

By Tawny Slaughter, PhilNews Mgr.

Over the past few weeks I have talked about my home troop coming to Philmont. Last week, I had the opportunity to join them on the trail and be a small part of their Philmont experience. The following paragraphs are just a glimpse into the smiles, laughs, and trials that have been the happenings of 725-X.



Crew 725-X atop Baldy Mountain

Day 4

I wandered through the campsites at Ponil looking for where my home troop was camped out. As I came across the first site I heard unfamiliar voices and moved on. The second one I came to was neat and orderly with all matching tents and I knew this was not my troop so I kept hiking. As I rounded the corner to the third campsite I saw packs everywhere, clothing flung to every corner of the campsite and not a soul in sight. Instantly I knew I was in the right place and with a grin I found a seat under a shade tree and waited.

Before long I heard the familiar voices of my crew coming up the trail from the shower house. I spent the evening with them eating dinner and watching the Ponil Cantina show. With enthusiasm, I heard all about the adventures with their Ranger, the new nicknames they had for each other, how it much it rained their first night on the trail and their quest to build a fire afterwards. After a cup of root beer with my crew, I bade them farewell and headed back to base.

Day 6

Day six started with picking up a Scout and his father at the Denver airport. He missed the first part of the trek to show his calf in the 4-H fair (a 2nd place finish I might add!). They received a quick and snappy tour through basecamp with medical rechecks and a shake down. Then we were off to meet the rest of the crew at Miranda.

At Miranda, I watched as our crew leader, Zack, and my brother (an Advisor) planned out a careful hike up Baldy for the next day. This was a first for all, except my brother who hiked it with our Dad as a youth. That night at thorns and roses, everyone was looking forward to hiking Baldy the next day. I was humbly surprised when my brother said his “bud” was the same as it had been for the last two nights, hiking Baldy with his sister. This of course drew an “awwwwww” from the Scouts. After thorns and roses, everyone headed to bed as the next morning would be very early.

At an hour of the morning I haven't seen in a long time, I felt a shake of my tent and Zack telling me it was time to get up. We rose and fumbled around camp making breakfast and preparing for our hike up the mountain. Long before I would have normally even been up we started up the mountain, discovering old mines, cabins and outstanding views. Finally, we broke out of the forest and into the Baldy meadow where we

stopped for lunch.

After lunch we slowly trudged our way up the very top of Baldy often stopping to see the magnificent views of the land around us. Behind me I heard one of my Scouts say with a grin "This was a great idea six months ago" and I almost fell off the mountain laughing. When we finally reach the top, we had the mountain to ourselves. With hugs and high fives of victory we had our moment atop the mountain. We took our pictures, looked at how far we had come and how far we had left to go and headed down the mountain because bad weather was on its way.

We took the new trail down to Copper Park and then went on to Baldy Town to pick up food while it intermittently rained. At Baldy they enjoyed the new luxury of fresh fruit and chocolate. Then back to Miranda for the night where supper and a fire were waiting to be made.

Though I have only been able to see my crew here and there as I have had time. I have enjoyed the role of Staff/Advisor and look forward to hiking in with my crew on their final days on the trail. I would have loved to have spent all 12 days with them but I wouldn't trade the time I did spend for the world.



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The Crater Lake staff from last summer has recorded all the music they played in their campfire. Want a copy? You can find it at <http://www.thelifeofbryson.com/music.html> in mp3 format. Or you can I-Camp a blank CD-R to Mark Bryson @ Conservation Dept. Work Crew Kilo and they will burn you a copy. Happy listening!

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Thoughts from the NPS Manager

By Henry Watson, NPS Mgr.

Philmont after Philmont

In this issue's 'Caught in the Act' I mention Michael McKay. What I didn't mention is that he now lives in Florida. In fact, I don't know the last time he was in God's Country. Astute readers have just figured out that he's a PSA member and former staff member.

So why do I mention him in another article, Because his interest in Philmont has not gone away after he closed his tent flaps for the last time and caught that ride home. There's a longing to continue his Philmont experience even in Florida.

Here's how you can experience Philmont after Philmont. At the Trading Post pick up a copy of the Philmanac. Rock Rohrbacher's book is a great resource to remember all the camps you've visited and the camps you'd like to visit next year.

PSA's site www.philstaff.com not only has archived issues of the PhilNews but other links and will keep you informed about what's going on at the camp. Get your souvenir copies of the PhilNews here. Michael does.

David Lagesse's site www.pineapplefish56.net has the "Philmont Songbook". Learn the lyrics for next year's program.

Selden's list of Philmont Web Pages is just incredible. Go to <http://www.lns.cornell.edu/~seb/philmont.html>.

See old Philmont documents and Patriots' Path council's Watchu Experience. One of the best sites I've come across that is geared toward the participant. <http://www.watchu.org>.

Help Larry McLaughlin with the Philmont Documentary. Go to www.philmontmovie.com.

Facebook groups. Just log in and be yourself and your PhilFriends will find you.

YouTube has the 2008 staff recruitment video on line. The 2009 version will be posted soon. Recruit your friends, find the differences, and take a sip of half-strength Gatorade every time you see a blue shirt. You'll be hydrated in no time. See you next season.

Saying Goodbye and Thank you

It's time. As the PhilNews goes into hibernation for the next eight months, I'm reflecting on everything we did this summer. And we did a lot. So I want to tell you the accomplishments of this talented group I call my 2009 NPS staff.

My photographers keep everything clicking. At last count we had printed 40,000 crew shots, staff photos and promotional images. Of course we took even more photographs than we printed and we did it all over Philmont. We hiked, biked and begged rides. We rode in commissary trucks and with chaplains and backcountry managers. This year the photographers were Anita Altschul, Patrick Bonz, Rebecca Bost, Chris Ferguson, Caitlin Ficke, Michael Hunter, Adrienne Lalli, Andrea McCurdy, Nathan Waldock and Steve Wurtzel. My Assistant Manager for Photography was R. Martin Stamat.

My writers kept the photographers busy. This year the PhilNews writers were Chloe Euston, Justin Lyon and Jordon Shinn. They're responsible for the Philnews you've been reading this summer. If they visited your camp, you know how seriously they took their job. My Assistant Manager for the PhilNews was Tawny Slaughter.

My videographers reworked the staff recruitment video, prepared a promotional video for the PTC, and worked on videos for the Tooth of Time Traders. They also had a lot of side projects getting footage for future projects. I was excited that they completed some trading videos for NPS on crew shots and our Fuji Frontier printer. Bryan Hayek, my lead videographer, Margaret Hedderman and Jennifer Wendel did all the hiking the photographers did, but had to carry heavier equipment.

My marketers did an incredible job this year. Kevin Faragher created some eye-popping promotional posters and set high standards for future marketing campaigns. Jeremy Gregory created some incredibly detailed plans for us to use as guides for Philmont program and promotional support.

Special thanks to Steve Tucker for his great illustrations, everyone who contributed articles, Owen McCulloch for his guidance and of course every one involved with the printing and collating of the PhilNews.

As for me, this summer I sat back and enjoyed the ride. Thank you all for making it a great one!

The Prayer of the Ranger

By Rabbi Rachmiel (Rock) Tobesman
Chaplain

Philmont is a place where many find meaning in their beliefs and faith. So many times we forget the beauty of simple faith. We all learn that one should approach their faith with "all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might." (Deuteronomy 6:5) Everyone has their own walk.

There once was a certain ranger who did not know how to pray. Yet every morning he would wake up and look towards the rising sun and say: "Lord of the Universe! You know full well that if You have people to guide through the backcountry and were to give them to me I would show them Your wonders and teach them to love Your creations; for I love You."

On one occasion a holy man passed that way and found the ranger praying. "Fool," said he, "do not pray like that!" "And how should I pray?" asked the ranger. At which point the learned man taught him the order of the prayers, in order that he should no longer say what he had been familiar to say. But after the holy man went away, the ranger forgot all that he had been taught and could not recite it. He was also afraid to say what he had formerly said, because

the learned man had warned him not to.

Now in a dream at night the holy man heard a voice that said to him: "You have deprived Me of a beautiful thing, for you see that the ranger's prayer was simple and from the heart. If you do not tell him to say what he used to say before you met him, and if you do not go there, then know what troubles are awaiting you. For you have robbed Me of one of those who is assured of the World to Come!" The holy man went at once and searched the backcountry to find the ranger. He searched the canyons, the mesas, climbed the mountains and the many trails. When the holy man finally found the ranger, he told him to continue the prayer of his heart.

Now there was no knowledge of the Scriptures, merely one who thought to be good and do well by those he led. The Holy One, Blessed be He regarded this as a great thing, for the Merciful One always seeks the heart.

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PhilChef is More Than Just Food!

By Margaret Hedderman and Kevin Faragher

To the cynical observer, the PhilChef competition was nothing more than a poorly disguised ruse for NPS Staffers to impose, guilt-free, on our favorite backcountry camps to “test” their cooking abilities. The open-minded, however, would say...

Okay, fine. The competition *did* evolve from precisely that idea. I was hungry, literally and figuratively, to get out of Base Camp and into the backcountry. The four entrants: Rich Cabins, Crater Lake, Ute Gulch, and Black Mountain, presented the perfect opportunity.

All set to emulate Gordon Ramsay, it wasn't halfway through our first meal at Rich Cabins that Kevin Faragher and I realized that though we were judging textures and spices, what we were really tasting was a unique way of life that only exists at these backcountry camps for two months a year – never to be savored or doubled again. With that in mind, the PhilChef competition evolved into a kind of cultural immersion that only the ritual of eating could fully realize.

That said, the PhilNews has, on paper, determined a winner, having garnered the most points in all four categories: taste, preparation, creativity, and difficulty. And prizes will be awarded in due course. This article, however, is not a synopsis of the judges' nitpicky palates, but rather is a sampling platter of the unique lifestyles of each camp.

A Bad Day at Black Tastes Pretty Good

By Margaret Hedderman

Let's face it. It's been a bad day at Black. First, the burros run away. Twice. Second, as thunder rolls over the mountain, a Hasty is called in on the radio and off runs one chef, Ben Harris. Third, well, aren't two enough considering this is a PhilChef competition day? Apparently not. Faragher, Jennifer Wendel and I arrive at Black Mountain to news that there is little food left after a recent tourist invasion.

Regardless, as black powder rifles boom behind

the cabin, inside Camp Director Warren Davis sautés a pan of vegetables while simultaneously kneading his trademark spicy burger meat. The veggies, Harris' project, were instantly abandoned with the Hasty call and Davis soon shoves them aside.

A one-room establishment, the Black Mountain cabin houses all five staff members and the kitchen. It's just a little cramped. Currently, a Rayado Ranger hides below the shuttered windows, Davis cracks jokes with or maybe at Wendel, and Program Counselor Ryan Fish dumps cup after cup of powdered sugar into a bowl of peanut butter. It looks like the most delicious heart attack I'll ever have.

Fish looks up at me and asks, "What's a double-boiler?" Well, it boils things twice. And I'm pretty sure you don't have one. Fish passes me a bowl of dark chocolate chunks. Oh, but for you, sweet chocolate, I'll make one. As I set about melting the chocolate on the wood-burning stove, Davis completely takes off the oven door.

"This is what I mean by broken." He chucks it away and takes out a tray of simmering pork. "Let's eat."

Davis, Wendel, and I crowd the stoop together with our plates. Today's menu: sweet and spicy apple/barbeque pork with rice and sautéed zucchini. The pork is perfectly tender, and melds the sweet/spicy combo to a tee. Behind us, Faragher and PC Zac Butler are already on the second course, Spicy Burgers.

Absolutely nothing has gone smoothly today, but you'd never know it. The Black Mountain Staff eat and laugh and eat some more as though this was the greatest joke ever told. Later, once the chocolate has melted, we lounge outside making peanut butter buckeyes and dipping fruit into the fondue. Covered in chocolate and full to the brim isn't a bad way to end any day at Black Mountain.

A "Chili" Day at Rich Cabins

By Kevin Faragher

It is a rainy day in the Rich Cabins' canyon when our group arrives. This is not one of those ten-minute rain periods followed by the sun coming out that happens at Philmont in July. No, it is cold, heavy, and dismal.

Going into the cabin you can smell the pie before

you even get to the kitchen. What better meal is there than homemade chili, cheddar biscuits and three, that's right I said three, fruit pies, on a cold rainy evening?

About once every two weeks, Stephen Senter declares Chili Day at Rich Cabins. This is no ordinary beans and beef chili. The dish includes multiple types of beans and even corn to give a fresh wholesome taste and consistency. The spice in the bowl is perfect, and the cheese added to the top at the last second makes every bite stringy with cheddar. They even cut up radishes and fresh chives from their garden and put them in the chili!

Rachel Rosenblum and Carrie Anderson made two apple pies and one peach/apple pie from scratch for the competition. One apple pie and the peach/apple pie was a little "overly crispy" because of an earlier miscommunication; however the one apple pie that they did want judged was remarkable! The crust was perfectly buttery and crisp providing the right amount of salt and cinnamon flavor. The filling was done nicely with freshly cut apples and a gooey consistency. The overall meal was the perfect antidote to a cold rainy day!

Feeling at Home at Ute Gulch

By Kevin Faragher

If you are ever feeling homesick or looking for a comfortable meal to rival something your mom might cook, head over to Ute Gulch and have a meal prepared by Cliff Eade. Cliff, Camp Director Brian Jordan and the rest of the Ute Gulch staff made us feel more than welcome during our visit. But just like home, leave your shoes at the door!

When we arrived the staff had the table set and Cliff's food was on full presentation at the table. He started our meal with a freshly cut salad and some warm and zesty cheddar biscuits. After the starter course, Cliff dished up some fried rice decorated with spiraling slivers of yellow bell pepper and a stalk of celery in the center for major presentation points. Next Cliff served stir-fry out of a Dutch oven as a delightful complement to the fried rice. The main course included large chunks of pineapple, freshly cut vegetables, beef tips in a sauce made from fruit juices and brown sugar.

Desert at Ute Gulch was a very original dish. Cliff took a can of blueberry pie filling and a can of cherry pie filling and mixed it with chocolate cake mix, chocolate chips, sprinkles, and chocolate syrup. While the texture was a little strange, the originality of the dish is definitely admirable!

With a great selection of music, wholesome original food and a welcoming home-like atmosphere, make sure you swing through Ute Gulch before the summer ends!



Photo by Kevin Faragher

Guest Judge Blake Butler digging in at Ute Gulch

Crater Lake Doesn't Need The Bacon

By Margaret Hedderman

Alone. A dark room. A computer screen. A blank page and a pulsing cursor. Not writer's block – more like, where to begin? I could shout, "Bacon! Bacon, bacon, BACON!" And you'd know I'm shouting about Crater Lake. But, I'd also be shouting "Bacon" in a dark room by myself. Let's not do that.

It proves difficult to illustrate what is so special about the place. And, apparently, I'm not the only one who thinks so highly of it. Nearly seventy guests showed for their recent PhilFiesta. And it isn't just the heart-stirring campfire, nor is it the close proximity to Base Camp that leaves such a pleasant aftertaste. Something greater about Crater Lake lingers like the memory of your favorite meal.

Continued on Page 16

PhilChef Continued from Page 15

It's there in the welcome every guest receives as they round the Lake and approach the cabin. On this particular occasion, it's sub-tropical animal calls, warm hugs and high-fives. The PhilChef judges, Faragher, Andrea McCurdy, and I, have hiked through a thunder battle for this meal. It had better be good.

No worries there. Chef Travis Evans has out-done himself once again. Salad, homemade honey mustard dressing, fresh bread, alfredo sauce from scratch with chicken parmesan, and perhaps one of the single most amazing apple pies I've ever had. Faragher declares Evans could, "package that crust and sell it in overpriced food stores." I'm too busy chewing/drooling to agree.

As Alison Krauss serenades in the background, PCs David Burchfield and Andrew Garner decorate the table with flowers and origami birds. Jealous yet? Oh, just wait. The Crater dining experience is two near cathartic hours of feasting, sharing of stories and laughs – the company enjoyed as much as the food. As the meal ends, the true fête begins.

After a particularly energized concert in front of the Tooth, Burchfield cranks up the dance mix back at the cabin. As we swing, salsa, and sway into the wee hours of the morning, I can't help but already miss this camp. Bryce Blankenship, David Burchfield, Travis Evans, Alex Pagnotta, Andrew Garner, and Pete Weber may be manly-logger-men, but they have truly broken the mold at Crater Lake. I mean, did I mention there was no bacon at dinner?

The Envelope, Please. And the Winner is...

Margaret:

Yeah, it was Crater. Warm bread fresh from the oven is always the way to my heart. And it was the pie that did Faragher and McCurdy in. The points added up, went off the chart, and the winner was clear.



Photo by Kevin Faragher

Apple Pie from Crater Lake

However, the very idea of choosing a winner in such a competition seems redundant when all four camps plated such varied experiences.

As stated before, the true pleasure of judging this competition came not from food comas, but from the adventure of dining with old friends and new. Like a good meal, the experience of visiting these camps lives on only in memory and a full stomach.

Kevin:

Congratulations to Crater Lake on winning the 2009 PhilChef Competition, but most of all thank you for an amazing meal and night for the ages! I want to also thank every camp that we visited during the competition. Each camp's unique personality came through in their food and the company could not have been better!

I now challenge you the reader to get out there and experience what all the camps have to offer. Whether it is feeling like you are a part of a camp's family, eating a good meal with friends around a hurricane lamp, or letting food settle by dancing the night away to salsa and folk music, the Philmont backcountry is yours to explore and experience. Even if you only have one more set of days off, get out there and meet some folks before the summer ends, and if you feel you over ate, just hike it off the next day!

Be a Part of the Philmont Documentary

One of the focuses of the Philmont Documentary is to show the impact of Waite Phillips gift to individuals. I am interested in hearing your stories! More info at: www.Philmontmovie.com. I am asking volunteers write a short letter to Waite Phillips describing their experiences at Philmont and how it has had an impact on their lives. They will upload photos and/or videos that help supplement their story. I will choose what I believe to be the most captivating stories and select them to be read by an actor along with the pictures or video to be part of the film. The final letters will be chosen based on content submitted and the range of ages and geographic locations. I am looking for stories from the 1940's to today in the USA and around the world. If you know of someone who could share a great experience, please invite them to visit www.philmontmovie.com. In addition if you are a family member of someone who is unable to submit, you can share the impact you witnessed. Thanks, Larry McLaughlin

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Swimming World Championships, Rome

The U.S. 400-meter medley relay team ended the fastest race in swimming history with the 43rd world record time at the World Championships in Rome, on Sunday night.

The team finished in 3 minutes, 27.28 seconds, crushing its winning time at the Beijing Olympics of 3:29.34 against the confident French team.

Michael Phelps swam the butterfly leg, winning his fifth World Championships Gold Medal.

Eric Shanteau, cancer survivor, swam the breaststroke leg to win his first significant career gold medal, adding to a silver and a bronze in Rome. Also, Aaron Peirsol swam the backstroke leg and David Walters swam as freestyle anchor.

Phelps plans to swim in the 2012 London Olympics, which he expects to be his last.

AMERICAN LEAGUE						
EAST	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
NY Yankees	63	42	.600	-	Won 1	5-5
Boston	62	42	.596	.5	Won 4	6-4
Tampa Bay	57	48	.543	6	Lost 1	5-5
Toronto	50	54	.481	12.5	Won 1	4-6
Baltimore	44	60	.423	18.5	Lost 3	3-7
CENTRAL	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Detroit	54	49	.524	-	Lost 1	5-5
Chicago Sox	54	40	.509	1.5	Lost 1	4-6
Minnesota	52	53	.493	3	Lost 3	4-3
Cleveland	44	61	.419	11	Won 1	7-3
Kansas City	41	63	.394	13.5	Won 1	4-6
WEST	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
LA Angels	63	40	.612	-	Won 5	8-2
Texas	58	44	.569	4.5	Lost 1	7-3
Seattle	54	50	.519	9.5	Won 1	4-6
Oakland	44	59	.427	19	Lost 1	4-6
NATIONAL LEAGUE						
EAST	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Philadelphia	59	43	.578	-	Lost 1	6-4
Florida	54	50	.519	6	Lost 1	7-3
Atlanta	53	51	.510	7	Won 1	5-5
NY Mets	50	53	.485	9.5	Won 1	6-4
Washington	33	72	.314	27.5	Won 1	5-5
WEST	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
LA Dodgers	64	40	.615	-	Lost 1	4-6
Colorado	58	47	.522	6.5	Won 4	6-4
San Francisco	57	47	.548	7	Won 1	7-3
Arizona	45	59	.433	19	Lost 1	5-5
San Diego	43	62	.410	21.5	Won 5	6-4
CENTRAL	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Chicago Cubs	55	47	.539	-	Won 1	8-2
St. Louis	58	50	.537	-	Lost 1	6-4
Houston	52	53	.495	4.5	Won 1	3-7
Milwaukee	51	53	.490	5	Lost 2	3-7
Cincinnati	45	59	.433	11	Lost 6	1-9
Pittsburgh	45	59	.433	11	Lost 1	3-7

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Football

Farve Says No to Vikings

Quarterback Brett Farve decided not to end his second retirement and join the Minnesota Vikings. He remained uncommitted to the team until last Tuesday, when he called Vikings coach Brad Childress to confirm his plans to remain retired—just two days before the start of training camp in Mankato, Minn. But all signs pointed toward another comeback.

Farve has been recovering from surgery on his throwing arm to alleviate a torn biceps, it was thought, in preparation of his return.

The aging Farve first retired from the NFL last year after 16 spectacular seasons with the Green Bay Packers, where he set many passing records. He then came out of retirement to spend an unsuccessful season with the New York Jets, before retiring a second time.

After surgery, he was debating whether to sign with his longtime Packers rival, the Vikings.

But Farve told Childress he feels his body cannot handle a 19th season in the NFL, according to the AP. "I'm 39 with a lot of sacks to my name," Farve told the AP. Farve turns 40 in October.

X Games

Skateboard Big Air

Jake Brown, famous for his 40-foot slam to the floor of the X Games mega ramp two years ago, returned to win the Skateboard Big Air competition at the Staples Center, last Thursday.

The arena is comprised of a mega ramp, a gap and a half pipe. The ramp launches skaters over the gap and onto the half pipe, where they attempt to fling their bodies as high as possible into the air while completing a technical spin or flip combination trick, before hopefully landing back on the ramp. The height meter atop the half pipe maxes out at 25 feet.

On his second of five runs, Brown threw down solid 360 over the gap and 21-foot 540 McTwist on the half-pipe for a high score of 94. He repeated that set on his third run, bailing on the fourth in preparation for a 900 on the half-pipe, which he was unable to land.

However, Brown's overall was good enough to defeat two-time defending champion Bob Burnquist, who matched Brown's score of 94.

Burnquist, who had the last run as defending champion, crashed over the gap to take silver. Rob Lorifice won bronze.

Skateboard Big Air Rail Jam

Danny Way, Big Air pioneer, entered this year's X games with a pre-existing leg injury and did not compete in the Big Air competition.

However, he chose to compete in the first ever Skateboard Big Air Rail Jam—another of his inventions. Despite having to drop-in riding switch and not landing a trick for nearly 23 minutes during his runs, Way finally threw down a solid score of 92, winning the competition.

Way, the first man to jump over the Great Wall of China on a skateboard, invented the Mega Ramp in 2002. Despite crashing hard twice in last year's X Games' Big Air competition, he finished all his runs, and was hospitalized for several days afterward. This is his first gold medal since the 2006 X Games.

Bob Burnquist won silver, with a score of 89. Rob Lorifice battled Adam Taylor to win bronze, with a score of 88.33. Burnquist and Lorifice had placed second and third in the Big Air competition a day earlier.

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A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Caught in the Act!



Photo by Justin Lyon

A Scout(er) is Helpful.

Jerry Lomas, of crew 718-U1, was caught helping clean and straighten up the Advisors Lounge.
Thanks!

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”!

Caught in the Act

Early in the year Michael McKay did something worthy of being “Caught in the Act.” It started when he was reading the PhilNews and came across our recognition of Staff and Scouts who exhibit behavior described in the Scout Oath and Law. He thought this was such a great idea that he talked to PSA and funded ten seasonal memberships in the PSA.

The challenge was then given to me to find 10 worthy individuals. That was tough. Each and every one reading this did so much this summer to ‘deliver the wilderness adventures that last a lifetime.’ Whether you sent a lost item to Security or participated in a SAR, you did have an impact.

I remember a day off I had while I was on staff at the 2005 National Jamboree. As I wandered through the exhibits I heard my name called. Turning around there was one of the youth from my 2003 Philmont Trek. Of course he was no longer a youth and was there as an Assistant Scoutmaster. He excitedly introduced me to his troop as “the guy who took him to Philmont.” I didn’t correct him at the time, but further thought made me realize that it wasn’t just me who got him from French Henry to Baldy Town or throwing tomahawks at Miranda. It was a lot of Staff just like you.

Without the Commissary, there would have been no food. Without Services, no tents. Without the Mailroom, no notes from home waiting for us. You get the idea.

Michael McKay and I would like to thank these ten individuals who made an impact beyond their job.

Dom Alesandrini – Backcountry Manager
 Blake Butler – Backcountry Manager
 Kevin Faragher – NPS staff
 Matt Garcia – Mailroom staff
 Jeremy Gregory – NPS staff
 Vicky Harper – Registration staff
 Adam Herrenbuck – Chief Ranger
 Ross Robinson – Backcountry Manager
 Martin Stamat – NPS staff
 Clara Stolz – PTC staff

Thank you!

PSA Seasonal Staff Scholarship

What an incredible summer! You have worked hard, learned new skills, bagged a few peaks, and made new friends. No doubt you will want to come back for the summer of 2010. However, there are nine busy months from now until then. What will you be doing to bridge the gap between your Philmont summers?

Many of you are going to school to pursue a degree. Quite a few of you are going to grad school to get another degree. Regardless of what level of schooling you are pursuing, the Philmont Staff Association has an opportunity available for you to receive some dollars to help achieve that goal.

The Philmont Staff Association will award over \$10,000 in educational scholarships to Philstuffers this fall. You should apply. If you are going to college or grad school or any other type of post-secondary education, please consider completing an application for a PSA Seasonal Staff Scholarship.

To be eligible: you need to complete the Scholarship application (located at the SSSAC or from the PSA office), join the Philmont Staff Association (\$15 for a one-year membership), and apply for Philmont 2010 summer staff. The deadline is August 31, 2009. For more information, contact the PSA office at psadirector@philstaff.com or (575) 376-1138.



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Iranian Protestors Go On Trial

Over 100 protestors from Iran's recent election crisis went on trial Saturday for charges of conspiring to create a revolution using terrorism, destruction of public property, setting government facilities on fire, and creating a media campaign to delegitimize election results. Opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi accused authorities Sunday of torturing the accused protestors to extract confessions. Former president Mohammad Khatami said the trial was against the constitution and rejected the validity of the confessions used in the trial. One such confession was from Muhammad Ali Abtahi, who served as vice president under Khatami, in which he stated that the idea of fraud in the election was simply a lie made to justify the protest. Of the 300 protestors arrested, so far 140 have been released.

Filipinos Mourn

Former President Aquino

Thousands of Filipinos lined up Sunday outside a Catholic school in Manila for a viewing of former President Corazon Aquino. Aquino, 76, died of colon cancer Saturday in a Manila hospital. Aquino is credited with democratizing the Philippines in 1986 with the "people power" revolt, ending the dictatorship Ferdinand Marcos. The Aquino family decided against a state funeral because of disagreements with the current government. In recent years Aquino joined the campaign to remove President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who was accused of corruption and election fraud. President Arroyo declared Wednesday a non-working holiday and cut short her visit to the United States to attend Aquino's funeral.

American Hikers Arrested in Iran

Three US nationals were detained by Iranian forces Friday after hiking into Iran from northern Iraq. The detainees were visiting the Kurdish resort region of Ahmed Awa when they hiked over a mountain and into Iran. The border is unmarked in this region, and a Kurdish government statement issued Saturday said the Americans were unfamiliar with the area and lost their way, thus ending up in Iranian territory. The Americans, age 27 to 36, were students, two of which had been studying Arabic in Syria. The United States has asked the Swiss embassy in Tehran for assistance to secure the release of the three hikers.

Cyber Attack Hits

Australian Film Festival

Online bookings for the Melbourne International Film Festival were shut down Saturday after Chinese hackers attacked its website in protest of a visit by the Uighur leader. The festival is showing a documentary called "Ten Conditions of Love" about Rebiya Kadeer, the exiled leader of the Uighur minority, a predominantly Muslim population of 10 million, mostly living in China's northeastern Xingjiang province. The Chinese government has accused Kadeer, who lives in the United States, of organizing last month's protests in Xinjiang, which caused 197 deaths in the region's worst ethnic violence in decades. The cyber attack originated from a Chinese civilian website that taught users how to set up fake accounts to buy tickets for the festival, causing the site to falsely show films as sold out. All bookings for the festival will now have to be made in person or by phone, and Kadeer is still expected to appear at the showing.

British Report Calls for More Focused Efforts in Afghanistan

The Foreign Affairs Committee of Britain's House of Commons released a report Sunday saying that Britain has lost sight of its original goal of security in Afghanistan. Committee Chairman Mike Gapes says Britain has strayed into efforts such as counter-narcotics, state-building and protecting human rights. This report came out just after the conclusion of the deadliest month in Afghanistan since 2001, in which 75 coalition troops were killed. The committee said British troops should focus on security and abandon counter-narcotics efforts.



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Remains of first American shot down in Gulf War found

The discovery of the remains of U.S. Navy Capt. Michael "Scott" Speicher was announced early last Sunday. Speicher, was shot down in an F/A-18 Hornet on January 17, 1991, the first night of the Persian Gulf War. The location of Speicher's remains was unknown for 18 years, as family members and loved ones speculated if he has survived and was being held captive.

In early July an Iraqi civilian provided U.S. forces in Iraq with the location of the crash of Speicher's plane. U.S. Marines in Anbar province went to the site and spoke with another Iraqi who claimed to have witnessed the burial of Speicher's remains after the crash. A search of the area uncovered the remains, which were flown to Dover Air Base last week and were positively identified by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. The remains included bones and skeletal fragments, and a jawbone that provided a positive identification with Speicher's dental records.

Space Shuttle Endeavor Returns Home

After a grueling 16 day mission in space, the crew of the Space Shuttle Endeavor safely landed down Friday morning. The shuttle landed at 10:48 AM at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The seven-member crew of the Endeavor successfully lifted off on July 15, despite five previous delays due to weather and technical issues, and made its way to the International Space Station. The mission of the Endeavor was to bring supplies to the inhabitants of the space station, engage in five spacewalks, and to install an experimental platform to Japan's Kibo science laboratory and update any aging spare parts. The crew also dropped off American astronaut Timothy L. Kopra at the station, and picked up Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata for the return trip to Earth.

Only seven shuttle flights remain before the fleet is set to retire, with the next planned launch being around August 25.

U.S. Missile Tests Successful

On the evening of July 30, the U.S. tested a sea-based component of its missile defense system—known as the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program—and successfully intercepted a ballistic missile with a dummy warhead over the Pacific Ocean. This test marks the 19th successful attempt of the system out of 23 attempts since 2002.

The target missile, fired from Hawaii around 5:40 PM, was shot down by an interceptor missile from the USS Hopper, one of three Navy ships tracking the dummy missile, about 100 miles above the surface of the Earth. The test took less than five minutes according to a statement from the U.S. military.

Nissan Unveils its Own Electric Car

Nissan Motor Co. revealed a new line of zero-emission, electric cars on Sunday. The car is named the hatchback "Leaf", and is Nissan's first attempt into mass-producing electric cars.

The car will be first sold in the United States, Japan, and Europe toward the end of 2010, with two more new models following soon after. The initial production is planned at around 200,000 units a year. Nissan's Leaf's top speed is around 90 mph, with a cruising range of around 100 mph.

The initial price for the Leaf was not disclosed, but a Nissan spokeswoman said it would be similarly priced to other family-sized cars excluding the cost of the electric battery.

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A NOT so Random Interview

By Jordon Shinn, PhilNews Writer

Completing the Yo-Yo-Yo

Who: Josh Foxtton, 22

From: Columbia, Maryland

Education: Systems Engineering degree from U.S. Naval Academy

Position: Academy Ranger Trainer

Goal: I'm going into the Marines, hopefully to fly the Osprey.

What: Completed the "Yo-Yo-Yo," or the Ranger Marathon three consecutive times.

Official Time: 68:37:35

On August 9, Josh Foxtton, Academy Ranger Trainer, and Danny Banas, Urraca Program Counselor, woke before the sun rose at Dan Beard and started south through the canyon. Destination: Carson Meadows, the southern most staff camp and the end of the first leg of their journey—the Ranger Marathon three times in a row. On the night of August 11, at the end of the third day, the Carson Meadows staff would see the pair come running to their porch and tap their boots.

Why did you do it?

It all started when visiting Urraca. I was up there enjoying the campfire, visiting the lovely staff and the idea came from Danny Banas, P.C. He was talking about doing the "Yo-Yo-Yo" or the "Triple Yo," and he needed to find somebody to do it with. And I said, 'Oh, I'd love to do it with you.'" It was his idea, I was just along for the ride.

What was the greatest challenge?

Danny and I talked about it. We knew it was physically possible. We knew it was a game of the mind. If we could tackle it mentally, we knew we could finish it. We said to ourselves, if we could finish two, we could finish three. So that was the major hump, the major wall for us to get over. And also we went over Bear Mountain at 12:30 PM in the sun, and there was not a cloud in the sky. That was probably the hottest I've ever been. So running up that was a challenge.

What did you gain from the experience?

It definitely did a lot for me. I made a great friend in Danny. He and I have a similar sense of humor, which helped a lot on the trail.

"Hiking that long allows you to do two things: get know the person you're hiking with and get to know yourself. It's a spiritual journey," Foxtton wrote in his diary after completing the journey.

What was your favorite wildlife you saw?

We saw a nest of baby birds at Cathedral Rock Camp. They were at a rock overhang so we were able to get right next to them and take some awesome photos.

What was the prettiest view?

Sunrise on Dean Skyline, and the view of Baldy between Vista Grande and Upper Bench.

How did you pass the time?

We sang to each other. Told jokes. And thought about everybody who told us we couldn't do it.

How many pairs of socks did you take?

Two .

How many liters of water did you take?

About three and a half (one Camelback and two Nalgenes).

What was your favorite piece of gear?

My Atmos 65 pack. I hiked 130-plus miles in it and it never hurt. And I carried at least 40 pounds.

How helpful were the staff camps?

They was definitely helpful. It's depressing between Ponil and Ute Gultch. There's nothing there, it's no-man's land. Having a staff to talk to and connect with is good for keeping your mind in reality.

We actually felt really good the whole time. I know that sounds pompous, but we never had any real trouble. I think that helped us.

What effect did the trek have on your body?

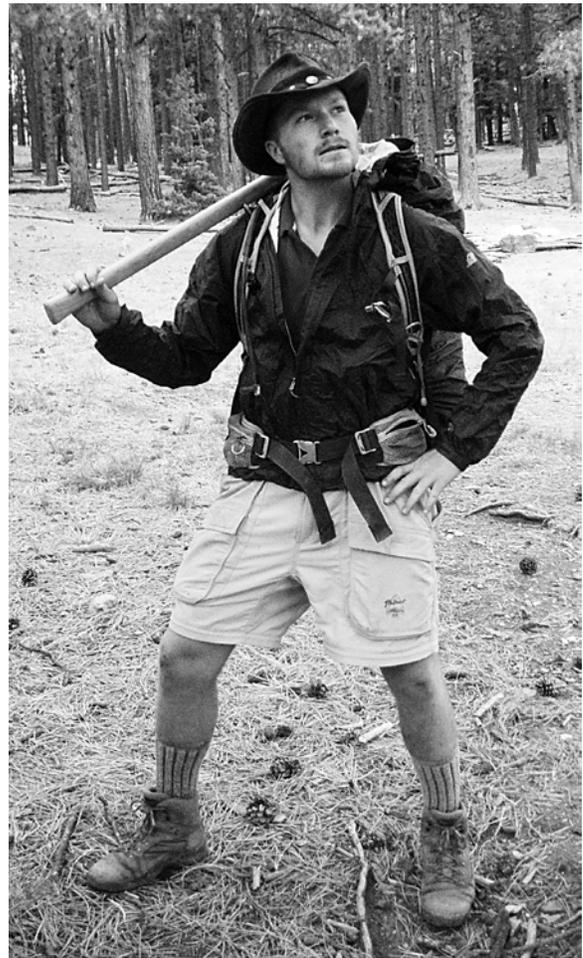
We realized that at some point after you've hiked enough miles, you actually prefer going uphill than downhill or flat ground because your feet don't hurt when going uphill.

Also, by the third day, we had normalized to one speed. We could only go one speed. We were either hiking, running or resting. We couldn't go any other speed.

And you actually walk easier with a pack after that many miles. You feel off balance when you walk without one.

What was the first thing you did when you got back?

Checked up on my Rangers. I hadn't seen them in three days. Then took a shower.



Josh Foxton

Who are your heroes?

My father, who always challenges me to do better. [Also] Owen Rust and Evan Bowser, who are probably the reason I'm out here. And Mario.

How do you challenge yourself after the Yo-Yo-Yo?

We're doing the Cons Challenge in August.

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Osprey's Atmos 65 Pack Review

By Jordon Shinn, PhilNews Writer

A great pack just got better.

The Atmos 65 is the largest of Osprey's redesigned Atmos series packs, ranging from 3,800 to 4,200 cubic inches of pack space.

Introduced in 2005, the Atmos series reinvented the alpine pack, boasting a slew of innovative features, including unprecedented lightweight design and suspension technologies. Four years later, Osprey's Atmos (men's) and Aura (women's) series packs continue to dominate the market.

Design

The redesigned Atmos 65 is made of tough, lightweight fabrics, including 210D Twill Velocity Cordura and 160Dx210D Window Ripstop Cordura and is available in graphite grey, green apple or aspen gold.

The pack has an improved "AirScape" ventilated back panel—the pack's trademark innovation. Utilizing ridge-molded foam and mesh, one's back rests completely on a single sheet of mesh. Also, the "LightWire" alloy aluminum hoop frame with added twin cross struts make the pack sturdier ever.

The improved back panel now sits further away from your back, allowing for more comfort when loaded. This was a problem with my old Atmos 50. Because the pack is curved to contour of your back, objects would push through the mesh back panel and jar my back. I had to be real careful in how I packed my pack—compression sack buckles not touching the backside of the main compartment's lower interior.

The waffle foam used to pad the shoulder straps and hip belt is lightweight and breathable. However, I wish there was a bit more padding. But I guess that's what brands like Gregory are for.

Major Improvements

One of my favorite improvements is in the side pockets. Each pocket has both a top and side openings, allowing for easy water bottle storage and removal while hiking. Because the side pockets on the previous version of the pack were accessible only from the top, water bottles were not easily reachable or replaceable while hiking. I remember having my hiking buddy remove and replace my water bottles for me, rather than take off my pack. This is a huge improvement.

In the same area, Osprey has addressed its side strap dilemma. The straps zig-zag across the side pockets, and when cinched, made the pocket inaccessible. But the new Atmos 65 features "inside/out compression." The straps can now be positioned inside the pockets against the body of the pack, instead of outside across the pockets, inhibiting pocket access.

Features! Features! Features!

Osprey put all its magic into this pack. Other improvements include a dual hydration storage system, inside/out compression, sleeping bag compartment with removable space divider, removable sleeping pad straps, dual ice-pick loops and tool straps and a "Stow On The Go" trekking pole carrying system.

Another nice feature, available on the Atmos 65 and 50, is the removable, floating top pocket. This



Photo by Pat Bonz

pocket, which buckles down over the top of the pack, is stationary on other Osprey packs. This adjustable pocket can be positioned to sit correctly atop large loads when the main compartment has reached or exceeded capacity. And when it is not needed, just remove it. It is simple.

And let's not forget about the mesh hip belt pockets—another Atmos trademark—or the lifetime warranty, backed-up by Osprey's "All Mighty Guarantee."

Overall

The redesigned Atmos 65 is the alpinist's dream pack. It has all the technical features a hiker could wish for, and is as breathable and lightweight as they come. However, as a smaller guy, I prefer the Atmos 50—the next pack down.

I think I'm in love.



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A Vision from the Commissary

(AKA how to buy trail meals in the off season)

So there we were. Sitting in my apartment, all five of us, studying. It was on a Monday night, we had all been out late the night before and had a test first thing the next day. We took a break and began reminiscing about the days on the trail and our experiences in those backcountry camps at Philmont. When all of a sudden to my surprise one of the other guys said, "Man I wish we had a supper 9 - we could heat up real fast so we wouldn't have to cook anything." Then I thought to myself, whoa nelly, wouldn't it be awesome if the Commissary sold surplus trail food starting September 15th of this year. All I would have to do on nights like tonight is boil some water and poof, presto; I have an instant meal that is both satisfying and delicious. Then I had a vision - I got online, found the contact information for the Commissary and called them. I was able to order all the food I wanted out of their stock, for a great price, and it was delivered to my front door just nine days later. Upon waking up from my trance I did everything I had dreamed about and sure enough it went just as anticipated. Now, I can sit in my hammock in the early afternoon sunshine, reading the 2009 issues of PhilNews and eating my supper 9 on a tortilla; reminiscing about Philmont.

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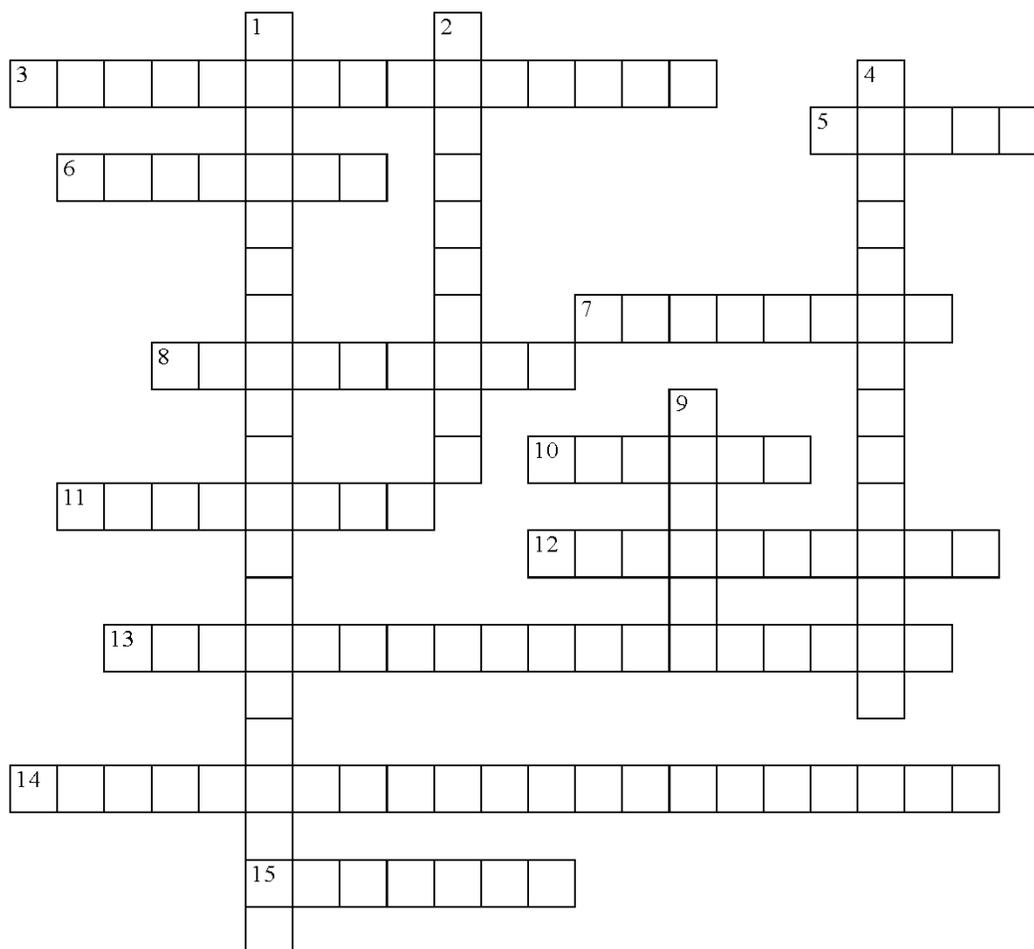
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Merit Badges Required for Eagle Rank



ACROSS

- 3 Let's get physical.
- 5 A study of governments is in order for citizenship in the ____.
- 6 If Lance were a Scout, this would be his easiest merit badge.
- 7 You'll be ____ with the fishes.
- 8 Mr. Rogers would be a shoe-in for a merit badge in citizenship in the ____.
- 10 For citizenship in the ____, you can visit old Abe in DC.
- 11 "Call 911. Get an AED!"
- 12 Don't forget to phone home.
- 13 A penny saved is a penny earned.
- 14 Start digging your storm cellar if you want this badge.
- 15 You can earn this while you're sleeping.

DOWN

- 1 Know your flora and your fauna.
- 2 Get this in case you hear the dreaded words: man overboard!
- 4 Remember to use your inside voice.
- 9 This one is a walk in the park.

Sudoku

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

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

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

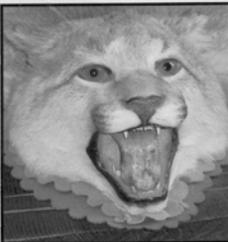
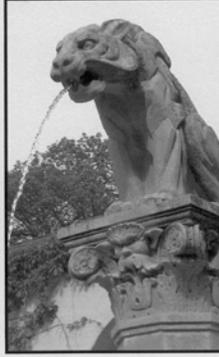
						5	4	
	9					1	6	
		1	8					
5	6		2		4		9	
			4		1			
3	2		5		8		1	
					6	9		
	5	4					1	
	2	3						



Tour the Villa Philmonte!!

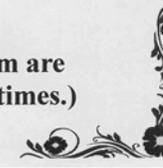


17 Guided Tours a Day.
Make your reservation at the
 Philmont Museum/Seton Library!


Tour Times: Early Bird at 7:45 am
On the hour and half hour:
 8:00—11:00 am
 12:30—4:30 pm

The 7:45 am, 11:00 am and 4:30 pm are abbreviated to accommodate meal times.)

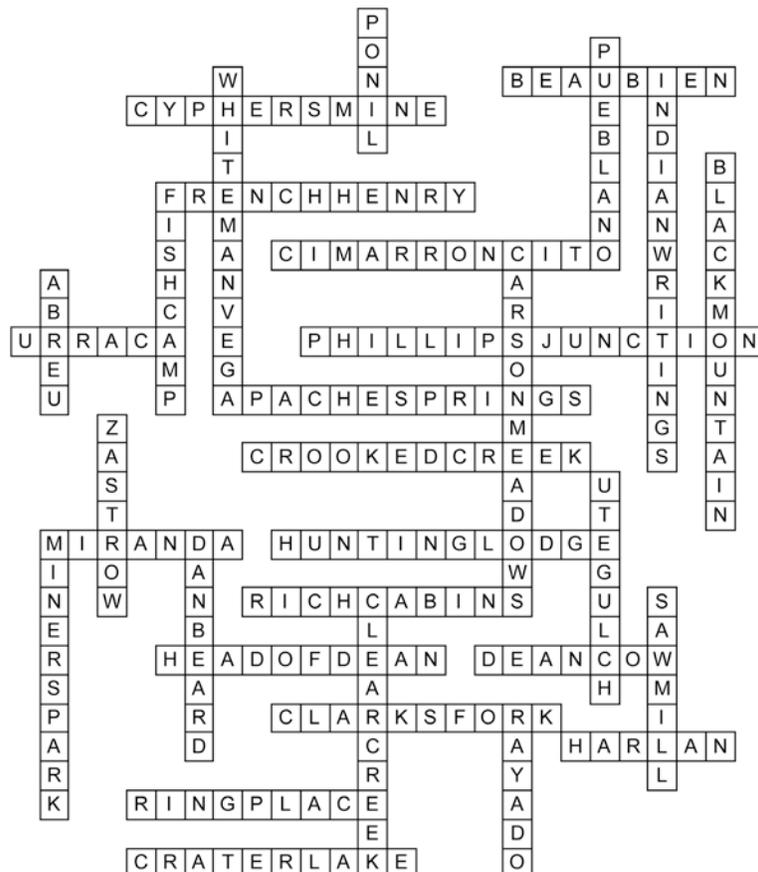
Last week's Answers

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

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

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

Philmont Backcountry Camps



Friday	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<p>7</p> <p>ICE CREAM NIGHT 8 PM SSSAC KITCHEN</p> <p><u>TOTT</u> SIDEWALK SALE 10 AM - 6:45 PM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>VOLLEYBALL 8 PM VOLLEYBALL COURTS</p> <p><u>CT</u>: BELL STORY</p>	<p>9</p> <p>BRAT DAY 11 AM - 1 PM BALDY PAVILION</p> <p><u>PTC</u>: OPENING PROGRAM 8:15PM</p> <p><u>PTC</u> BRUNCH 10:30-12:30</p> <p>PROTESTANT COMMUNION 6PM PROTESTANT PORCH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>BINGO 8 PM SSSAC</p> <p><u>PTC</u>: WANNA BE BAND & COBBLER 7-9 PM</p> <p>STORYTELLER 8 PM SOUTH TENT CITY</p> <p><u>CT</u>: ADVANCED WATER TREATMENT</p>	<p>11</p> <p>TWISTER 8 PM BALDY PAVILION</p> <p><u>PTC</u>: BUFFALO BARBEQUE 5:30 PM & WESTERN NIGHT 6:30 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>EUCHRE TOURNAMENT 8 PM SSSAC</p> <p>WISE GUYS 7 PM</p> <p>YOGA 8 PM FITNESS CENTER</p> <p><u>CT</u>: ADVANCED WATER TREATMENT</p>	<p>13</p> <p>BOARD GAME NIGHT 8PM SSSAC</p> <p><u>PTC</u>: WANNA BE BAND & COBBLER 7-9 PM</p> <p>STORYTELLER 8 PM SOUTH TENT CITY</p> <p><u>TOTT</u> SIDEWALK SALE 10 AM - 6:45 PM</p>
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<p>14</p> <p>KICKBALL 8 PM BY THE VOLLEYBALL COURTS</p> <p>PAY DAY</p> <p>LAST OPENING CAMPFIRE</p> <p><u>TOTT</u> SIDEWALK SALE 10 AM - 6:45 PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>VOLLEYBALL 8 PM VOLLEYBALL COURTS</p>	<p>16</p> <p><u>PTC</u>: OPENING PROGRAM 8:15PM</p> <p><u>PTC</u> BRUNCH 10:30-12:30</p> <p>PROTESTANT COMMUNION 6PM PROTESTANT PORCH</p>	<p>17</p> <p><u>PTC</u>: WANNA BE BAND & COBBLER 7-9 PM</p> <p>STORYTELLER 8 PM SOUTH TENT CITY</p>	<p>18</p> <p><u>PTC</u>: BUFFALO BARBEQUE 5:30 PM & WESTERN NIGHT 6:30 PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>BRAT DAY BALDY PAVILION 11 AM - 1 PM</p> <p>WISE GUYS 7 PM</p> <p>YOGA 8 PM FITNESS CENTER</p>	<p>20</p> <p><u>PTC</u>: WANNA BE BAND & COBBLER 7-9 PM</p> <p>STORYTELLER 8 PM SOUTH TENT CITY</p> <p>LAST CLOSING CAMPFIRE</p> <p><u>TOTT</u> SIDEWALK SALE 10 AM - 6:45 PM</p>

* Continuing training, held at the Ranger Office at 6:00 PM