Worlds Colliding

Before 725-X had even made it onto the bus at the train station my sunglasses had been swiped, my cell phone looked for, and a million questions asked (most importantly where’s food?). Ahhh Boy Scouts. I sat at the Welcome Center with my crew waiting for their Ranger, Andrew Elson, who after a month and a half I had finally convinced to take out my crew. Then with the words “I’m guessing you’re 725-X” my worlds collided.

I spent the Saturday and Sunday following my crew and their Ranger around base. At times I wasn’t sure if he had them in tow or they had him in tow, but I loved ever minute of it. From the statements that make you shake your head such as “I want to see a rainbow in the dark” to dubbing their crew leader “Chieffie” and creating a chant for him; every moment was pure gold. Sunday afternoon, however, I watched them load up and head for the turnaround. I sadly wandered back to my office to finish this issue so I could meet them again on the trail. Speaking of which, I’ve got to go for I have a crew to find.
Mark’s Minute

“On my honor, I will do my best …”

At the first of the summer and during the orientation of late arriving staff we have each participated in a presentation about the Aims and Methods of the Boy Scouts of America. Many of the sessions began with each of us repeating the Scout Oath.

This past weekend I was reminded of those shared experiences when we said together “On my honor, I will do my best …”

In the events surrounding the collapse and death of Timmy Nunn on Saturday, July 24th, I was tremendously impressed by the efforts of all of our staff who were involved and all of the staff who wished they could have helped in some way.

Together we share an awesome responsibility. As I get to know more and more of you, I know that you join me each day of the summer in living the statement “On my honor, I will do my best …”

Timmy’s family shared the following statement for each member of the Philmont Staff.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt gratitude to all of the Philmont Staff. Everyone has treated us with love and kindness and I know my son Timmy felt that as well. If we could choose a place, other than with us, I’m glad God let him experience Philmont.

You all should be proud of the type of individuals each of you are. As we can never forget our son Timmy, so we will never forget those of you who helped us through this difficult time. God blessed us with Timmy, and so he blessed Timmy with you.

The Nunn Family God Bless All of You!

As we move forward through the summer, let us all reach out to support and strengthen each other. We truly are a family, a family committed to those around us.

Mark Anderson
Director of Program
Jake Coggiano in Services has been spending his days off busily building cardboard furniture on the front porch of the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center.

It all started some time at the beginning of the summer when Jake wanted some shelves for his own tent and decided to build some with cardboard and tape. Using cardboard boxes from the trash at Services and some packing tape, Jake designed and built his shelves.

Since then, Jake’s talents have been commissioned by several people to design and build cardboard furniture. An individual might approach Jake with an idea for a piece of furniture. He then looks at the layout of the individual’s tent to design a piece to best fit their needs. Then he sits in front of the SSSAC with cardboard boxes, packing tape and a knife, to design and create a unique piece of furniture.

So far he has built drawers that fit under the cots in tent city, shelves that go under lockers, multi-use night stands and one large desk, which Jake says is the piece that most resembles real furniture.

His most popular item is the nightstand, of which he has made 5. It is a versatile piece that has shelves, drawers and a trash can built into it. Jake’s creation time depends on if he has made such a piece before or if he is making it for the first time. Shelves and drawers use 2 to 3 boxes, while a desk uses 20 boxes to complete.
Jake Coggiano with the desk he made from cardboard boxes

Night stand made from cardboard boxes

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Located in the Central Headquarters of Philmont Scout Ranch
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“For your needs of a western lifestyle”
A Random Interview With Random a Scout

Name: Devon Markgoforth, 18
Crew Number: 726-Q1
Rank: Eagle Scout
Hometown: St. Louis, MO

Devon hadn’t hit the trail yet when he was interviewed on July 27th, but was on a trek at Philmont five years ago.

What is your favorite piece of gear?
“4L Camelbak.”

Who is your favorite super hero?
“Batman. He’s always adaptable.”

What was your favorite trail food?
“HOOAH! Bars. The chocolate was pretty good.”

Sports played?
“I played football in middle school and high school, but now I play paintball.”

If you could have any super power, what would it be?
“Slow things down. That way you could dodge things, like while playing paintball.”

If you won the lottery today, what would you do first?
“I’d jump up and down. Then I’d go to a bank.”

What was your favorite animal at Philmont?
“The bear.”

What was your favorite backcountry camp?
“Miranda, because they have the darkest green grass.”

What is your favorite band?
“Chevelle.”

What is your favorite movie?
“Black Hawk Down.”

Where is the farthest you’ve been from home?
“Oakland, California.”

What is the best thing about Philmont?
“Climbing the Tooth.”
What do you know about Kit Carson? Who is he? Was he good or bad? Was he a hero or a villain? Carson’s name can be found practically everywhere in and around the area of Taos, from street signs to shop names. There is a national forest named after him. There is a museum dedicated to his life. It’s nearly impossible to come to New Mexico and not hear about Carson in some way, but who was he really?

These are the questions that inspired historian and journalist Hampton Sides to dig deep into Kit Carson’s history, and led to him to write the book, Blood and Thunder, a non-fiction narrative on the life and exploits of Kit Carson. Sides, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, and the writer of the international best-seller Ghost Soldiers, became interested in Carson after discovering mixed opinions on Carson’s background.

“It was a very different picture of Kit Carson from what little I remembered from a couple of juvenile biographies or some television Westerns that depicted him as a great hero.”

“I went to this amazing place in Navajo country called Canyon de Chelly,” said Sides, “and they presented a very different portrait of Kit Carson as this conqueror, very much like Sherman is depicted in the American south.”

As research for his book, Sides visited several sites of Carson’s exploits, went to archives located all over the west to collect information, and dug up stories of Carson from old newspapers and letters. However, finding reputable information about Carson was rather difficult. Carson was, after all, illiterate, and as such there isn’t much written by Carson himself, save a few letters and an autobiography he dictated. Despite the lack of personally written works, there was plenty of other material about Carson to work with.

“He’s probably the most written about figure on the Western stage.” said Sides, “People made stuff up about him, people interviewed him to try and get the real story, and all shades in-between. One of the tasks of the book was to sift through all that and find what is true, and what is legend. Any time you write about a folk hero you have that issue.”

Sides worked on his book for five years to form Carson’s wild escapades into an interesting story. Blood and Thunder is, after all, not your typical history book. It is a narrative that reads like an old Western story.

“A lot of history writing can be deadly dull.” said Sides, “I don’t think of myself as a historian, I think of myself as a journalist... so I guess my goal was to take some of the techniques of journalism and apply it to history so that people would hopefully not fall asleep.”

“The worst kind of history is history that doesn’t get read.” said Sides.

Kit Carson was certainly a larger-than-life character. While it is true that many stories of his adventures were exaggerated, he was still a massive figure for his time. “He went everywhere, he knew everyone, and he did everything there was to do in the early days of the west.” said Sides. “I decided it was just a great topic.”

This summer, Sides made his first ever trip to Philmont for a book signing at the Seton Memorial Library at the Philmont Museum. He received a respectable turnout, so much so that there weren’t enough seats to accommodate every visitor. As Sides addressed the visitors, he enthusiastically revealed that Blood and Thunder is under consideration to have a movie adaptation made of it.
Reader Questionnaire

Let the PhilNews know what YOU think. Just return this form to the NPS office.

1. What is your favorite section (articles/news/games/etc) in the PhilNews?

2. What would you like to see more of in the PhilNews?

3. What would you like to see less of in the PhilNews?

4. What would you like to see added to the PhilNews?

5. What, if anything, would you like to see removed from the PhilNews?
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.

Mutterings from the Paymaster

- There are two more paydays at Philmont when checks will be distributed—July 31st and 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.

- It’s easier and quicker to resolve any discrepancy NOW, rather than waiting and running out of time at the end of the season, or worse yet, finding a possible problem when you get home.
LIFT YOUR EYES TO THE Hills….
By Chaplain Padre

Here in Philmont at the Training Center is an interfaith chapel. A brief quote from Psalm 121 is clearly visible as one looks through the expanse of glass to the mountains. It is an unmistakable invitation as well as a reminder of why we come to Philmont! Why we come to God’s country!

On July 24, 2009, Tim Nunn, Chaplain’s Aide to 721 J-3 had left Old Camp with his crew heading toward Ponil over the ridge. Having spiritually led his crew in an exceptional way since the beginning of their trek, he was soon to meet the true Author of those inspired words; this time there was the added invitation to come home with Him.

Tim had not only lifted his young eyes to the hills and mountains, he was on the final trek of his short lifetime. He finished his trek only to experience face-to-face the Creator that he had come to know in the beauty of creation known as Philmont.

Each of us might consider reflecting on the full text of Psalm 121. It is entitled ‘A Song of Ascents.’ Tim Nunn was engaged in such an ascent when the Lord invited him home.

Psalm 121
A song of ascents.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber;

4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;

8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

The Holy Bible New International Version, NIV Copyright 1973,1976, 1984 by International Bible Society
Hoist up the Sloop John B. Philmont is nowhere near the beach, but the Hawaiian shirt-clad Wanna-Be Band plays classic folk and rock songs every Monday and Thursday at East Tent City in the Philmont Training Center (PTC).

The Wanna-Be Band is made up of seven people this year, with Larry Danna as their front man. Current band members are Larry Danna from medical recheck on guitar, Charlie Nutter from logistics on tambourine, Steven Hentzelman from security on drums, John Clark on guitar, Dylan Ashcroft from PTC maintenance on keyboard, Dave Anderson on guitar, Julia McCulloch on vocals and Dale Hiatt from Services on guitar.

Dave Anderson started the Wanna-Be Band thirteen years ago. One of the major components the band lacked in the early days was a drum set. The original band used cheese boxes, trash cans and 5-gallon buckets for drums, and cymbals were tambourines on poles. Anderson asked Danna, who has played in the band since 1998, to take over this year.

“We’ve come a long way,” Clark said, referring to the band’s humble beginnings. Clark has been a band member since 2002.

“The band’s never been the same two years in a row,” Clark said. Perhaps this is one of the most impressive things about the Wanna-Be Band. They have managed to survive for thirteen years with members coming and going every season. And playing in the band is no casual affair. “You have to be committed,” Hiatt said. Since 1998, Danna has only missed one performance—in 2003 when the Norwalk Virus hit.

Wanna-Be Band plays during PTC’s Cracker Barrel. It takes place in a garage-like structure in East Tent City of PTC every Monday and Thursday from 7 PM to 9 PM (except during the Latter Day Saints week, when the Cracker Barrel is only on Tuesday). The event is also called “cobbler night” for the Dutch Oven cobblers that are prepared and served there.
PTC Dining Hall “Employee of the Week”

Alex works very hard. He is quick to volunteer, and quick to get the job done. Thank you Alex.

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“Work’s about Play...Everyday, at Mudd N Flood!”

Make a purchase and answer a trivia question or shoot the footbag for a great prize! (While supplies last).

M U D D  N  F L O O D

Come see us at our bright and beautiful new location at 103 Bent Street in Taos. (Across from the Taos Inn.)
The Talon 22 is the middle child in Osprey’s Talon family, designed for “day adventures, mountain biking, [and] adventure racing.” Decked-out with more ridiculous features than I can describe, including trekking pole and tow loops, and a slew of technical pockets, this daypack is for the serious alpinist.

* Fit

Unlike my canvas rucksack, The Talon 22 won’t slouch. Made of lightweight, durable, synthetic materials, it sits with perfect posture against the whole of my back—an odd feeling after years of roughing it. But it’s a feeling I can get used to.

The “AirScape” back panel is a sleek mesh-lined, foam-ridged pad that wicks away sweat and keeps your back ventilated while evenly distributing the weight. It is reinforced with a flexible plastic sheet.

Each shoulder strap is likewise padded and ventilated, sporting a stretchy pocket—perfectly convenient for holding a Lara Bar, Buck Knife or, yes, a cell phone. Osprey is making good use of shoulder strap space.

* Space

The Talon 22 is a teardrop shaped panel loader with an astonishingly wide zippered mouth, smiling more than halfway down the pack on either side. The main compartment is big enough to fit a compressed sleeping bag, water bottle and a few spare layers with ease. Anything else is pushing it.

For a daypack the Talon 22 has pockets galore—12 in all. The seven exterior pockets are stretchy, located on the hip belts, shoulder straps, sides and back of the pack. Just behind the main compartment, the large, zippered interior mesh pocket is great for storing a trail meal, even when the pack is stuffed.

The back outer pocket is my favorite. An open pocket, it is large enough to stuff my rain jacket in, while a strap on its lip buckles to the top of the pack. This strap is perfect for toting my full-sized Thermarest ProLite 4. Also nice is the large water bladder compartment behind the back panel.
And where to strap the bite-valve? Where you have questions, Osprey has answers. Thread the hose through the right or left stretchy shoulder band and draw across to the other shoulder strap, fitting the valve securely under the opposing band. This works just like the larger Osprey packs.

The side pockets are located underneath the side straps, making them inaccessible when the encompassing straps are holding a camp chair or sleeping pad. For such uses, I wish the straps were both longer and zagged across the sides a third time. When used to hold a pad, the two zags can be awkward. However, when the straps are simply compressing the pack, I can remove and replace my water bottle fairly easily.

* Performance

On the trail all items are secure, even while jogging that last quarter mile of trail to frantically catch a bus at a turnaround. Just buckle and cinch down the hip and chest belts. The end of the straps have open plastic loops that can be slipped onto any other strap and drawn to remove the slack from the tightened belts—a nice touch as opposed to the fold-and-tuck method of packs like the Kestrel 48.

For nighttime excursions, posh silver “talon” reflectors on either side of the pack glint brightly in a car’s headlight or a searching head lamp. Additionally, the pack has a reflector strap on the front, which one can strap a flashing night light.

And then there’s the over-nighter. Naturally the dilemma becomes: What to do with too little stuff for a multi-day pack, yet too much stuff for a daypack? Choose the smaller pack. Always.

This does not necessarily mean cutting essential gear as much as it means being creative. The aforementioned side straps and spacious back pocket with its buckled strap are perfect for lashing various gear to the outside of the pack—a skill I am used to with my rucksack. Needless to say, with about 25 lbs. of gear, I have reached, if not exceeded, the capacity of this pack.

Because the pack is made of lightweight and durable synthetic materials with a flexible plastic back support, it folds and fits into my multi-day packs. However, it does not lash onto the exteriors of larger Osprey packs, like its other daypacks.

**Overall**

Opposing only some of my minor preferences, Osprey’s Talon 22 performs as well as its looks. It comes in two sizes (S/M and M/L) and three chic colors (Spicy Chili, Magnesium and Citron). Best part? It is available at the Tooth of Time Trading Post.
As dusk falls on Ute Springs, two weary men wearing rugged hand-stitched clothing, wide-brimmed hats and thick beards tramp into camp pulling two tired burros. Hurriedly, they tie their pack animals to thin aspen trees and drop their saddlebags. Then, carrying only empty canteens, they begin to trudge thirstily uphill to Ute Gulch Commissary—a deceptively long walk. On the edge of camp, a curious adviser holding a coffee mug sends a friendly holler. Pause. Time to meet the neighbors.

Together, “Angry Tim” and “Iron John,” along with their faithful burros, Hellfire and Damnation, roam the backcountry meeting unsuspecting crews, teaching them prospecting and sharing the facts, stories and music of 1868. In this unique backcountry living history program, the Roving Prospectors are always ready to engage crews on trails and in camps, sometimes skipping meals and going thirsty, but always eager to do so.

“Because we’re moving like they [Scouts] are, we can connect much deeper than a staff camp can,” said John Logan, one of two Roving Prospectors. “We’re also cooking and eating the same food they are. We’re running into dehydration problems.”

In the old days, prospectors roved the mountains and rivers in search of mineral deposits, staking and selling claims to adventurous miners or anyone willing to jump into the risky business. At Philmont, this job requires a heightened sense of selflessness, dedication to historical accuracy and constant spontaneity.

“We have a better opportunity than most camps to portray historical accuracy. We don’t have a solar panel on top of our cabin, we don’t have a radio antenna,” said Tim Collver, Logan’s prospecting partner. “In some cases we’ve been too convincing … People assume that this is something we happen to do at Philmont right now, and we are prospectors—right now we’re just prospecting on Philmont’s property. And that’s the closest thing to real life that they can believe.”

Roving the Backcountry

The prospectors take pride when Scouts really believe they are prospectors.

“I think that means we are doing the best we can do in this position,” Collver said. “It makes up for how difficult or inconvenient it may be. But we never notice the inconvenience because its become a part of what we do.”

Roving around, the prospectors have the advantage of not sticking to an exact itinerary—which has become for them an unexpected challenge.

“A great part about being in the woods is you don’t have to go by an exact schedule,” Collver said. “That adds a learning aspect for the kids—that spontaneity can happen and to let it happen … Some people are so caught up in a schedule.”

Although not being in control of who they encounter is exciting, it is also difficult.

“Some days our itinerary is such that we don’t see many crews. And it’s really hard to not be in charge of how many crews you see,” Collver said. “We are here to be with the kids and do program. That’s why we’re here. That’s why we’re on the trail. And that’s why Philmont is allowing us to wonder around and talk to kids. I feel it’s an obligation. And to not be in control of that obligation is so hard.”

That night around the campfire, Collver tunes a 90-year-old mandolin while Logan ties a square knot into a broken string of his homemade Banjo. Using a tripod of cast iron bars, they hang a blue kettle cover a newly kindled fire. A hand-sewn sock full of coffee grounds steeps inside the kettle. A small Dutch oven used to cook their meals rests on a nearby sandstone. Slowly, curious crews from around the trail camp meander over to the fire ring. Out here, mining for a living is a gamble, Logan explains to the Scouts—one has to tunnel 100 feet into their claim in one year, or Maxwell will take it back from them.

After meeting the crews and explaining their job, the prospectors feel like playing some music.
Collver strums the mandolin while Logan saws on his fiddle to “an old song.” “Peaches in the summertime, apples in the fall. If I can’t have the girl I love, I don’t want none at all,” Collver sings. “Had a dream I fell in love, holdin’ hands and dancin’. She kissed me and I turned red—foolish young romancin’.” The duo set down, pick up and switch instruments throughout the night, stopping between songs to tell tall tales with the Scouts about mining in the hills and to just visit with their new friends.

The two complement each other. Performing in historical reenactments since he was young, Logan knows the history of the west. A storyteller in his own right, Collver takes Logan’s facts and figures and puts his own spin on them.

“John always says that he hears his words through my mouth told a story,” Collver said. “It’s funny ‘cuz then I hear those story words through John’s mouth later on.”


Besides being prospectors, both men are famed Philmont musicians, and carry their instruments with them on their burros—light packable instruments that would have been carried west on the trail. However, they admit that playing music is not their focus.

“Music is a secondary part of our program,” Collver said. “Really the mining, the prospecting, the drawing a parallel between us prospecting for gold and them hiking for gold—hint, hint—without actually saying that phrase; just connecting with the kids, that is our goal—being prospectors, not entertainers and musicians.”

Despite their dedication to the Scouts and historical interpretation, they admit that their job is not essential—which is why it is necessary.

“As far as Philmont’s base of operations, no, we’re not integral, but I think that’s what makes us integral,” Collver said. “I wouldn’t be upset to never see us in a Trek Book or a Guidebook to Adventure.
Tour de France

Alberto Contador and Lance Armstrong of team Astana drank champagne on Sunday as they rode into Paris on the Champs-Élysées for stage 21 of the Tour de France.

The two riders had made it through three weeks of grueling racing, maintaining their podium positions for the last day of the Tour. Alberto Contador won the final yellow jersey, with a lead-time of 4:11 over second place Andy Schleck (Saxo Bank) and 5:24 over third place teammate Lance Armstrong.

But this was no easy win for Contador. Both Andy and Frank Schleck of team Saxo Bank attacked the Spaniard relentlessly through the mountains, seeing if he would crack. In the end, the older Contador proved strongest, maintaining the maillot jaune, while Andy Schleck received the white jersey for best young rider.

Contador proved his strength at the end in Stage 18’s final individual time trial, winning by a thin three seconds over time trial specialist Fabian Cancellara. He then matched every relentless attack by the Schleck brothers in the final mountain stage. Armstrong clawed his way back into third place over Frank Schleck, finishing the time trial in 16th place, 50 seconds behind Contador. He also matched the attacks of the Scheck brothers in Stage 19.

Although the first hour of the final stage was celebration, the last hour was serious racing around the streets of Paris.

The ride into Paris was for the sprinters, namely Mark Cavendish, who was wishing for his 10th stage victory of the Tour in two years, and first victory on the Champs-Élysées.

Cavendish’s Columbia-HTC team set the pace on the front end of the peloton,
unaided until the last few kilometers, when team Garmin-Slipstream tried to take over for their sprinter, Tyler Farrar.

However, Tour veteran George Hincapie swung the race back to the left side of the road, blasting the peloton around the final right-hand turn. That move set up teammate Mark Renshaw, who shot off the front of the pack with unmatched speed, leading out teammate Cavendish for the solo sprint victory.

Despite Cavendish’s six stage victories in this year’s Tour, veteran Thor Hushovd finished with the green sprinters’ jersey, having won more points in the mountains. Franco Pellizotti (Liquigas) kept the polka-dot mountain jersey.

This year’s Astana team was a final remnant of Armstrong’s original Postal Service, with coach Johan Bruniel and a slew of dominant riders. However, Armstrong plans to return to next year’s Tour riding for team Radio Shack. He will be 38 years old.

Skateboarding

Dew Tour World Championship

Skateboarding’s golden boy has done it again. Ryan Sheckler won first place in the park section of the 2009 Dew Tour World Championship on Saturday. He outtricked Ryan Decenzo and Chris Cole for the win.

Also, Venessa Torres tore it up for the women, taking first place. Lacey Baker took second and Alexis Sablone took third. Back after graduating with an architecture degree, Sablone gave progressive runs. Baker showed her endurance, quickly getting up after several hard falls.

In the men’s competition, Cole crushed the rails with a back 360 lip and a front blunt to fakie down the rail. Sheckler chose to rip it big, launching huge backside 180s and a perfect kickflip back lip down the rail. The World Champion was the crowd favorite.

Decenzo gave an impressive performance, blasting a fury of switch tricks with his clean runs across the park. Decenzo noseblunted, switch bluntslided and hit a switch 180 to Smith down the rail. He also did a nollie backside noseblunt on the bump to bar.

X Games 15: L.A.

The X Games are going to Los Angeles Starting Thursday, July 30, 2009, 200 extreme sportsmen and women from around the world will compete in Los Angeles for the summer X Games.

The four-day action sports competition features events in BMX Freestyle, Moto X, Skateboard and Rally Car Racing. This year is the 15th anniversary of the games, and will be aired live on ESPN. It ends August 2.

Surfing

U.S. Open

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Hurley U.S. Open of Surfing in Huntington Beach, Calif., the win went to a local.

Brett Simpson, Surf City local, defeated Mick Fanning in the men’s final on Sunday for a grand prize of $100,000. Simpson is the first surfer from Huntington to ever make the finals.

Surfing superstar Kelly Slater considered the waves to be the best he has seen at the competition. But he couldn’t hang ten the whole time, as Adriano De Souza beat him in the quarterfinals. The Hurley U.S. Open of Surfing started as the U.S. Championships in 1959.
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!

Matt and Alex of crew 714-K3 were caught washing their clothes right after getting off the trail. Good job!

A Scout is Clean

Photo By: Justin Lyon

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”!
Thank You to the PSA!

Any returning Philstaff members who remember the old CHQ staff lounge with its smelly TV room, handful of sometimes functional computers, broken down furniture, and general air of well-worn dilapidation will understand why it’s important for this summer’s staff members to take a moment to sign the big “Thank You!” card that is on display at the S.S.S.A.C. The card is addressed to the Philmont Staff Association, which raised more than $1,000,000 from current and former Philmont staffers to build the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center. Stop by and sign your name or write down your thoughts about the S.S.S.A.C.!

All Staff Are Welcome at the Opening and Closing Campfires

Staff members are always welcome to attend the Opening and Closing Campfires, which occur every night after chapel services.

Trailbound crews meet every evening at the Welcome Center at 8:15 for the Opening Campfire. The Opening Campfire introduces participants to the history of New Mexico and Philmont and prepares them for the backcountry interpretive camps that they will visit on their treks. Rangers present their crew leaders with an American flag and remind them of their real responsibility for seeing to it that their crew has a successful trek. The Opening Campfire has undergone some changes over the last few years and more changes are being discussed, so come and see what you think of the current version.

The Closing Campfire is a great chance to see why Philmont is so important to so many people. Homebound crews meet at the CHQ Dining Hall flagpoles before being led to the Closing Firebowl. The Closing Campfire celebrates the completion of their treks with skits, jokes, music, the presentation of each crew’s “We All Made It” plaque, and recognition of the crew leaders and advisors. The campfire ends with reflection. Video presentations show Philmont as it was in the early days and as it is now. Check out the home movies filmed by one of the first crews to visit Philturn Rocky Mountain Scout Camp, before Philmont had even become “Philmont!”

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**India Launches Nuclear-Powered Submarine**

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh launched Arihant, the country's first nuclear powered submarine, on Sunday. Arihant, meaning ‘Destroyer of Enemies’ in Sanskrit, is the first of five planned submarines in a project that will cost $2.9 billion. It weighs 6,000 tons and is powered by an 85-megawatt nuclear reactor. Arihant will undergo sea trials in the Bay of Bengal for two years before being fully commissioned. Other countries with nuclear-powered submarines are China, France, Britain, Russia and the United States.

**Afghan Vice Presidential Candidate Survives Ambush**

Officials say an Afghan vice presidential candidate escaped a Taliban ambush on Sunday. Mohammad Qasim Fahim’s motorcade was ambushed on a road in Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan. Fahim escaped unharmed, but reports say that one of his bodyguards was wounded. The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the attack. Fahim was the head of an alliance that toppled the Taliban in 2001. This attack is preceded by an attack on Wednesday on another candidate, Mullah Salam Rocketi, who also escaped unharmed. With growing violence linked to the election, there are fears that the August election will see a poor turnout.

**Obama Visits Russia, Biden Visits Ukraine and Georgia**

During President Obama’s visit to Moscow this month, he urged Russia to abandon the idea of a “sphere of influence” over former Soviet countries. Vice President Joe Biden visited the capitals of Ukraine and Georgia this week, delivering major public addresses to reaffirm US support for the two countries’ sovereign choices. Biden prodded Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili to carry out promises of political reform. In the Ukraine, Biden announced the establishment of a US-Ukrainian working group on energy security to help free Ukraine from dependence on Russia which cut off gas supplies to the Ukraine in midwinter.

**Sixteen Dead in Iranian Airplane Crash**

Aria Air’s flight license has been revoked after a passenger plane crashed during an emergency landing Friday. The Ilyushin II-62 jet, carrying 160 people, skidded off the runway and hit an electricity pylon at the Hasheminejad Airport in Mashhad. An Iranian aviation official has warned airlines with tough action and possible license revocations for being lax on safety measures. Aviation authorities say the crash was caused by excessive speed.

**President of France Falls Ill**

French President Nicolas Sarkozy collapsed while jogging on Sunday and was taken to a military hospital for tests. Sarkozy’s office said the 54-year old president suffered a minor fainting spell and never lost consciousness. Officials qualify this as a “vasovagal episode,” the most common form of fainting that is not considered life-threatening and can be caused by exercise in hot weather. The president’s office said that neurological tests were normal. The French presidency has been known in the past to hide health issues from the public, but Sarkozy promised during his campaign that he would be more open about his health. He has already been criticized for a secret hospitalization in 2007 that was revealed to the public three months after it happened.

**Unknown Object Leaves Mark on Jupiter**

Last Sunday an amateur astronomer in Australia reported a Pacific Ocean-sized impression left on Jupiter by an unknown object. The mark has been photographed by the Hubble Space Telescope. Close-ups were released on Saturday, revealing that repairs to the Hubble were successful. This is believed to be the largest collision since 1994’s Shoemaker-Levy 9, which left an Earth-sized mark that lasted one year. If such an object had hit Earth, it would have caused catastrophic damage to human civilization.
Soldier to receive Medal of Honor
Staff Sgt. Jared Monti of Taynham, Massachusetts is set to posthumously receive the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military honor, on September 17 for his courageous actions in combat and his selfless sacrifice in saving the life of another soldier in Afghanistan. He died June 21, at age 31.

Monti was deployed with the 10th Mountain Division near Gowardesh, Afghanistan, when the reconnaissance team was attacked. Monti was killed by enemy fire. The released White House statement provided no additional details of Monti’s actions.

Monti’s military accomplishments already consisted of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, five Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, three Good Conduct Medals, and three National Defense Service Medals. He was also posthumously promoted to sergeant first class for his actions.

Harvard Scholar Arrested in Home
Prominent African American Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. was arrested last Thursday at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts for disorderly conduct, described by the arresting officer as “loud and tumultuous behavior in a public space.”

It started when 40-year-old Lucia Whalen called 911 to report a possible break-in at Gates’s residence when she saw two men attempting to force down the door to his house. The two men turned out to be Gates and his service driver, who were attempting to open Gates’ jammed front door. Gates had just gotten back from a trip to China. When a police officer responded to the 911 call he found Gates in his home. When the officer asked Gates to produce identification, he initially refused, demanding the officer to produce an ID instead. Eventually, Gates produced his Harvard ID, but not before an argument that culminated in Gates accusing the white officer of racism.

Gates was arrested following the argument. The charge was dropped Tuesday on a recommendation to the Cambridge Police Department.

Paralyzed Grad takes Bar Exam after Technical Glitch
On Saturday California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called for the State Bar to overlook a technical error and allow paralyzed law school graduate Sara Granda to take Tuesday’s bar exam.

The State Bar’s Web site failed to process Granda’s application because California’s Department of Rehabilitation paid her $600 fee with a check, rather than a credit card, and the web site required a credit card number.

Granda, 29, a University of California-Davis Law School graduate, petitioned the California Supreme Court to allow her to take the test. Granda was paralyzed from the neck down following a car accident in 1997.

Under Sea Cable gets Africa Online
Cable provider company SEACOM opened an underwater cable near eastern Africa Thursday, July 23, finally giving the region access to high speed internet. The 17,000 kilometer cable is capable of transferring 1.28 terabytes per second, giving Africans an alternative to the current use of slow and expensive satellite connections.

The project took three years to complete, with landing stations located at South Africa, Kenya, and Madagascar among other points along Africa’s east coast. The launch was delayed by a month due to increased pirate activity along African coast lines, but additional security for the cables brought the project to completion.

Guinea Pigs beat Wizards at Box Office
Last weekend “Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince” was knocked from its box office top spot by Disney’s latest cute animal movie “G-Force”. The “G-Force” secret agent guinea pigs grossed $32,152,000, while “Harry Potter” only grossed $30,000,000. Following behind in third was “The Ugly Truth”, grossing $27,000,000, in fourth was “Orphan”, grossing $12,770,000, and in fifth was “Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs”, grossing $8,200,000.

Highway Crash kills 8
A three vehicle crash near New York on Sunday resulted in eight deaths, including those of four children. Police state that a minivan carrying five children and one adult was heading down the wrong lane on the Taconic State Parkway when it crashed head on into an SUV carrying three adults. The minivan careened into a third vehicle before bursting into flames.

The women driving the minivan, as well as four of the five children, were killed in the crash. The three adults in the SUV were killed as well. The adults in the third vehicle only sustained minor injuries.
Explore Your National Parks

By Doug Marquis, CHQ Activities

For Philstaffers, a summer at Philmont is a great opportunity to explore not just the landscape of the Ranch, but the many National Parks and National Monuments in New Mexico and the surrounding states.

The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is a day’s drive from Philmont, down I-40 to Flagstaff, Arizona, then north to the small town of Tusayan, just outside the park on the South Rim of the Canyon. Reservations are needed for the many hotels in Tusayan and also for the campground in the park. Once you’re there, you can park your car and ride the shuttle buses that run throughout the Grand Canyon Village area, the campgrounds, visitor centers, etc.

Of course, the attraction at the Grand Canyon is the canyon itself, whether you are able to hike down into the canyon or just walk along the Rim Trail. Check out the new Canyon View Information Plaza and the newly renovated Yavapai Observation Station. Have a look at the historic Bright Angel Lodge, located right on the rim next to the El Tovar Hotel. Watch the mule trains headed down the Bright Angel Trail to the Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the Canyon. Travel 25 miles down the road to Desert View Observation Tower for a completely different view of the canyon. Attend the nightly ranger programs to learn about the history and geology of the canyon, the condors, the mountain lions, and the peoples of the area. Also, watch the thousands of tourists that visit the park each day, and listen to the languages being spoken around you!

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is about a six hour drive south from Philmont, and you can stop at the alien museums in Roswell on the way! At least 300 limestone caves make up the Carlsbad Caverns, with 116 of them lying within the National Park. Drip by drip over the last several million years, amazing calcite speleothems have formed to decorate the caves. In contrast to the cool, moist caverns below, the Chihuahuan Desert and Guadalupe Mountains lie above.

Great Sand Dunes

North of Trinidad, Colorado, and near Walsenburg, is a quieter place to camp, the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. Walk through the children playing in Medano Creek that flows across the sand, then hike out into the dunes, which the water and wind have built grain by grain into the largest sand dunes in North America. Hike the trails that wander through the Sangre de Chisto and San Juan mountains in the Rio Grande and San Isabel National Forests surrounding the park.
Other Great Places to Visit

Fort Union National Monument is located near Las Vegas, New Mexico. Fort Union helped establish the American Southwest.

Capulin Volcano National Monument is a nearly perfect cinder cone located about 50 miles east of Raton, New Mexico, in the middle of the volcanic field that shaped much of the region’s geology. Drive to the top and walk the one-mile trail around the rim, or walk the trail down to the volcano vent.

Chaco Culture National Historic Park in central New Mexico preserves ruins which were a major center of Puebloan culture until about 800 years ago. This park is definitely “off the beaten path,” so beware of the extremely rugged dirt roads leading to both park entrances!

Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado and Bandolier National Monument near Los Alamos also feature Anasazi cliff houses and Pueblo dwellings.

Yellowstone National Park, the grandfather of all the national parks and home to the Old Faithful geyser, is a bit more than a day’s dive north of Philmont. You can get a preview of Yellowstone if you check out the old home movies shown at the Closing Campfire. See how bear procedures have changed over the last 70 years!

The National Park system is an accomplishment that every American should be proud of. If you haven’t experienced at least a few of these places or the many others in this area that are not mentioned, then you really ought to make plans now to correct that!

And if you happen to visit Michigan some time, you can check out Isle Royale National Park or the National Lakeshores at Sleeping Bear Dunes or Pictured Rocks. You also might want to cross the Mackinac Bridge, spend some time at Mackinaw Island, visit a lighthouse or the Henry Ford Museum, or just swim in a lake.

Stay involved throughout the year!

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The Rio Part II

(Just slightly delayed)

By Margaret Hedderman

It’s Friday night and I’m crashing the top of a State Park camping shelter. Bullfrogs provide the bass and fireflies the strobe lights. Not a bad little party. The Milky Way flows between the high walls of the Rio Grande Gorge. Slowly, I close my eyes and drift away with the rushing music of the river.

The next day, we are literally rushing away with the river – on inner tubes that is. While high-priced river guides drop their tourists in the river and local teenagers dare each other to jump off the Taos Junction Bridge, a group of NPS staffers splash in with their floaties and a party barge full of snacks. Off we go.

July 4th and the river is amazingly uncrowded. We hit the first set of rapids and out pops RJ Gilson, a visiting Navy Seaman from Alaska. He chases his tube downriver and I brace myself. This section of the Rio Grande is relatively shallow and sharp rocks will grab at unguarded rear ends. So lift and hang on! It’s R n’ R once past the rapids. We four NPS staffers, former PhilNews writer Jennifer Peters, Travis Evans from Crater, and two Navy boys relax and float downstream.

This isn’t my first rodeo on the Rio. On July 6th, 2007 The PhilNews printed my guide to inner-tubing on the Rio Grande. The trip was a minor disaster. I wrote: “It’ll only take an hour and that’s if you stop to swim.” My famous last words. Six hours later we’re still floating down the Rio Grande.” That was the test run. Over the last two years, with every successive trip, improvements have been made. The evolution of fun, if you will. The NPS Staff has gone from being mere amateurs to river party professionals and they will tow anyone and everyone along for the ride.

In a world where Crater Lake and any water hole over six-inches deep offer a place to swim, the Rio Grande is a must-do for any water-starved staffer. Twenty-six miles southwest of Taos is the small artist/rafting community of Pilar. Pottery kilns and galleries snuggle next to white-water rafting companies next to NM-570. Drive seven miles up the road and put in under the Taos Junction Bridge.

It’s a simple concept, really. Find two buddies with cars and park one at your desired exit point. Shuttle up river with the other to your launch site and put in. Tubes are cheap and easy to come by. Silvas Tires in Taos sells three sizes – the largest priced at $25. Invest and buy a tube over 16-inches. For the minimalist, all
you need is a tube, but maximum enjoyment comes in the form of a 16-quart floating pool cooler – A.K.A. the party barge.

Tawny Slaughter, the PhilNews Manager, guides the barge through the white water. She digs into the cooler, past the dry bags with our car keys, and pulls out a bag of chips. I grab a handful and watch the willowy banks go by. This is the life and not a bad 4th of July either.

It’s now July 18th and our second trip to the Rio this summer. I find myself climbing over the railing and onto the trusses of the TJ Bridge. Wow. It sure is a lot higher from up here. Depending on the river flow, it’s a twenty-five to thirty foot drop into, hopefully, deep water. Next to me is Bryan Hayek, Video Manager. This jump has come down to a ‘You go.’ ‘No, you go!’ ‘You!’ ‘No, you!’ Finally, I go.

I surface, sputtering, to cheers from the riverbank. Then Hayek leaps to more cheers and camera flashes. Kevin Faragher, a Philmont Marketer, claps and shouts at me.

“Congratulations! You just exerted your masculinity over Bryan.” Thanks? I swim to shore.

As with everything on the Rio, check the flow before hitting the water. 2009 has fortunately been a good year. Class II rapids will give the adrenaline junkie their fix; while deep, calm stretches provide perfect relaxation. A Rio trip is do-able in one day, but if you’re looking for a good time, plan on staying a night or two at one of the multiple Orilla Verde campgrounds along NM-570. Campground Hosts sell buckets of firewood for $3 each and a campsite runs for $7 a night.

I slap myself in the face, waking up to a mosquito drilling my forehead. The stars fade to the sun peaking over the Gorge walls. Burnt to a crisp, exhausted, and entirely happy, I say ‘Good Morning’ to the river. And ‘Good-Bye…’ for now.
ACROSS
4 French for beautiful, well.
6 Yours and ___.
8 Comment vousappelevez-vous?
9 Don't forget your helmet. A fall from here could be deadly.
12 Word for magpie.
13 No gas here.
14 A bouncing tribe.
16 Like a politician.
18 Rights of this name won't be read here.
20 A Waite Phillips original.
21 No poor folks here.
24 Two of these are better than one.
25 The bovine in charge of your school.
26 As opposed to his spoon.
28 Home of the burro racing association.
29 One ___ to rule them all.
30 Formed by an asteroid many moons ago.

DOWN
1 My Little ___.
2 Spanish for little town.
3 If Lance were a participant, he'd go here.
5 The scribes of their time.
7 From the Civil War era.
8 Something smells.
10 Come here for a frolic.
11 Come here to drink some rootbeer.
15 Orienteer yourself here for some cobbler.
17 A backcountry soup kitchen.
18 Loretta Lynn played here as a child.
19 This camp forgot to shave.
22 This water ain't muddy.
23 The biggest guns in Philmont.
27 Home of the most dangerous men in the West.

A Vision from the Commissary

(AKA how to buy trail meals in the offseason)

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 of the days on the trail and our experiences in those back country 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 Phil-News and eating my supper 9 on a tortilla; reminiscing about Philmont.
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
Villa Art Challenge Results
Thank you everyone for a successful Villa Art Challenge!

Judges met on Sunday night, July 26th, and these are the results:
Photography – Steve Hentzelman
Drawing – Stephen Buehrer
Painting – No entrants

**Best of Show – Stephen Buehrer**

Entries will be displayed in the Villa Gallery.

The Saturday, August 1st, awards event has been cancelled.

In place of the Art Show, the awards will be handed out individually to the winners.
Thank you again for your participation.
The Villa Staff

6/24/09 5K Results

**Men 18-21**
1st ~ Jack Heinrich ~ 19:40 ~ 1st overall
2nd ~ Jordon Shinn ~ 21:41 ~ 3rd overall
3rd ~ Ben Earnest ~ 23:42 ~ 7th overall
4th ~ Kyle Ross ~ 25:16 ~ 10th overall
5th ~ Jake Coggiano ~ 28:34 ~ 14th overall

**Women 18-21**
1st ~ Amber Wilson ~ 23:40 ~ 6th overall
2nd ~ Laura Murray ~ 24:57 ~ 8th overall
3rd ~ Morgan DeLuca ~ 25:29 ~ 11th overall
4th ~ Amaris Newkirk ~ 25:38 ~ 12th overall

**Men 22+**
1st ~ Pan Watts ~ 19:56 ~ 2nd overall
2nd ~ Francisco Avila ~ 21:56 ~ 4th overall
3rd ~ Karsten Magee ~ 25:15 ~ 9th overall
4th ~ Kevin Stenson ~ 28:26 ~ 13th overall

**Women 22+**
1st ~ Heather Wilson ~ 22:04 ~ 5th overall

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<td>1 Bazaar 8 pm</td>
<td>2 Watermelon Carving 8</td>
<td>3 Movie Night 8:15 pm SSSAC TV Room</td>
<td>4 Frisbee 8 pm Lawn by Health Lodge</td>
<td>5 5K Run</td>
<td>6 Jalepeno Eating Contest</td>
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<td>11 Twister 8 pm Baldy Pavilion</td>
<td>12 Euchre</td>
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<td>8 pm Volleyball Courts</td>
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<td>CT: Advanced Water Treatment</td>
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* Continuing Training, held at the Ranger Office at 6:00 PM