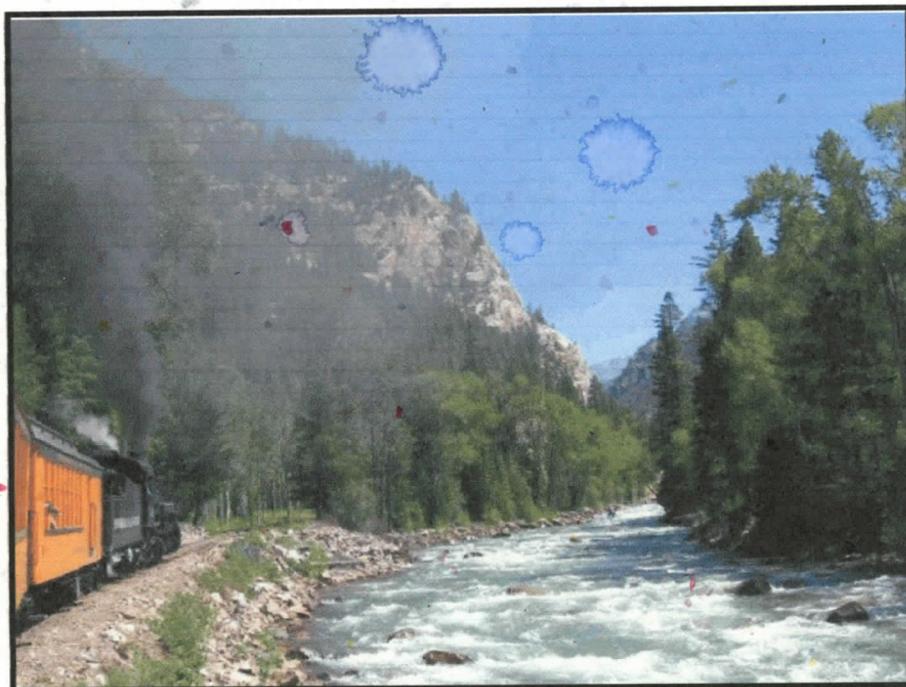


RAILIN' THE ROCKIES '08 Chronicles!

(July 17 through July 27)



Crew Members*

Michael Bush
Alex Buse-Oberto
Jacob Ellis
Sergio Galarza
Karl Potzmann
Kim Potzmann
Elliott Rutter
Justin Rutter

- * Ryan Kaufman (last minute injury knocked him out)
- * Daniel Koch (last minute injury knocked him out)
- * Greg Scott (served solely as Ass't Bus Driver!)
- * Wade & Quade (just happened to be there for our send-off!)

Railin' the Rockies '08

Preface – by Kim Potzmann

Once upon a time there was a great tribe from the middle of Missouri. There were many fine warriors in this tribe. One day, some of the bravest warriors went to see the tribal old man. “Old man,” they said, “we wish to find our destiny.” The old man looked upon these warriors and knew the time was right.

The old man said, “You have camped in the forests of Missouri. You have survived the heat and rain. You have trained for many moons. Several of you have attained the highest rank in our tribe. You are ready for greater adventure. I will accompany you on your quest, but first we must seek the counsel of our tribal wise man.”

The warriors and the old man went to the wise man and said, “We wish to find our destiny”. The wise man replied, “You must plan a great journey to the west. You must gather supplies to last throughout this journey. You will only triumph after great hardship.”

So the warriors started planning and gathering and their numbers dwindled until there were only seven. The wise man said, “I will go with you on your journey, but there are tasks you must face alone, where I cannot help. Let us begin.”

The seven warriors, the old man, and the wise man loaded a great yellow covered wagon and started their quest. They rolled across Missouri and into Kansas where they made their way past great thunderstorms on the plains. Into the lands of Colorado, and through the foothills they

traveled. They faced into the mountains and climbed until they came upon some great iron rails.

“Halt, we have come as far as we can together,” said the wise man. “From here you must take the great iron horse until you are swallowed by the forest. You must leave civilization behind and journey into the mountains. You will survive with only what you can carry. You must climb the highest peaks until you touch the clouds. You will see many wondrous things and when you see signs of what you seek, you should return to the iron horse, where I will give you yet one more challenge to face.”

The seven warriors and the old man packed what they could carry and left the wise man. They hiked and climbed the mountains. They crossed the great divide that splits the continent. They touched the clouds. They saw many wonderful things and gathered around an evening campfire they agreed they were indeed ready to return. “Old man,” they seven warriors said, “we have done as asked. We are ready to face our last challenge.”

“I can’t breathe,” said the old man.

The seven warriors and the old man descended from the mountains and met the wise man when they were again on the iron horse. The wise man asked them what they had done. The seven warriors replied, “We have climbed the highest peaks; we have touched the clouds; we have become one with the mountains.”

The old man swatted at his arm and muttered, “I have become one with the mosquito.”

The wise man said, “Your last challenge is to conquer a mighty river. You must ride the river

where few dare to go: where the water rages through a great gorge and if you survive, you will find your destiny.”

The seven warriors and the old man once again left the wise man. They found a wild river where they boarded a great raft. The raft tossed and bucked like a wild horse as they fought their way through perilous rapids that mighty men had named: “Sledgehammer”, “Boat-eater“, “Sunshine pipeline”, “The Grateful Dead” and “Wall-slammer”.

They returned to the wise man and the seven warriors said, “We have ridden the great waters of the gorge and have passed the last test.”

The old man said, “I almost drowned.”

“What is our destiny,” the seven warriors asked of the wise man?

The wise man replied, “I cannot tell you, but I believe you now know in your hearts what each of your destinies may be.”

The seven warriors pondered and then nodded to each other. They knew they did not have to give voice to what they had discovered. They would keep it in their hearts forever.

Note: The chronicles that follow were written by the seven warriors, the old man, and the wise man.

Kim Potzmann

Note from the Editors:

As with all past Super Trips – as far back as the first one in 1969 (“Gone Wild, ‘69), the participants in the Railin’ the Rockies ‘08 Super Trip prepared daily “write ups” describing the events of each day of the trip. After an author has written about his day, he passes the “book” along to a new author and a new entry is made. In the following pages, you’ll find the entries that each participant wrote.

Often these entries were made late at night in a tent as the day’s events drew to a close. Sometimes the entries were made while huddled under a tree at 13,000 feet as we waited for rain or hail to stop. Sometimes a scout would write his entry while balanced atop a rock or boulder near Elk Creek, while waiting for water to boil and the words “dinner is ready; get your ‘personals’” to be announced!

Some of the participants wrote extended and detailed descriptions of their day’s activities. Others chose to keep things short and “pithy.”

As participant/editors of this book, we’ve tried to accurately decipher what each scout wrote. In fact, just in case you’d like to see them, we’ve included the original handwritten versions of each day’s entries in a section toward the back of the book.

We’ve also spent some time going back through our Super Trip photos – (Greg and Elliot both had digital cameras) – to select some photos that seemed especially relevant and worthy of inclusion. . . . and also some photos that we included “just for fun”!

In addition to providing the individual daily write-ups, we have also provided some additional written comments (aka “Editors’ Addenda”) for some of the Super Trip days. Our hope is that the reader may appreciate the additional detail we have attempted to provide. We know that memories fade, . . . but the following book should help keep things fresh!

You’ll also find any number of additional Super Trip-related items in the sections to the back of the book.

As you’ll soon see, we had a great time on this Super Trip!

We hope you enjoy the book! Happy reading!

Railin’ Editors*

**Alex Buse-Oberto
Jacob Ellis
Michael Bush**

*with some much-appreciated assistance from Greg Scott

DAY ONE

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2008

– ON THE BUS –

FROM COLUMBIA TO COLORADO



Day One – Thursday, July 17, 2008

Written by: Jacob Ellis

Today had to be the slowest most painful part of the trip. We arrived at the Big Homies “Greg Scott” house at about 5:30. We put all of our gear on the bus, got our T-shirts and by 6:00 we said our goodbyes to our families and got on the highway.

On the bus we just chilled like villains ‘til about 7:30 where we stopped and stretched ourselves. After our little stretch we hightailed through the rest of the Show-Me state and into the flattest most boring terrain a human being could possibly look at: “Kansas”.

Jacob Ellis

Editors’ Addendum (based extensively on entries from Greg Scott’s own personal trip diary):

We met at Greg’s house a little before 6:00 p.m. Mr. Potzmann has obtained a 71 passenger bus for us. That means we’ve got 12 rows of bench seats (or 24 total seats) for a mere 8 people! (Assuming that one of our drivers will always be behind the wheel and not sitting in the back enjoying the ride!).

It takes us very little time to load up and then we are out the gate. Mr. Potzmann takes the first shift behind the wheel as Greg retreats into his “pillow haven.” (He has brought along at least a dozen pillows, and even the cushion off of his couch – Cleopatra never traveled in such style!).

Not much to do as the daylight fades on our way out West. We stop at the Boonville Rest Area and the next major landmark is K.C. Greg provides navigation services as Kim maneuvers through big city traffic. It is dark by the time we reach the Kansas toll road. Kim accepts the toll ticket and later pulls into the tollroad service plaza – for fuel, and to let Greg take over driving duties. Greg seems to be set for the “duration” – several packages of Corn-nuts and his ever-present bottles of diet Mountain Dew (. . . extra caffeine!). The guys are soon asleep and Greg soon finds out why Kim was so insistent about handing off driving duties to Greg back at the service plaza – the toll road exit is right ahead and it turns out that the driver is asked to pay the toll! Greg looks back at Kim, but he is feigning sleep! Very tricky, Kim!

The night is a long one. And the weather becomes rainy. The guys are not happy that we have windows down (it is cold and wet), but the drivers are being baked to death because the engine on a snub-nosed bus is INSIDE the passenger compartment of the bus, immediately adjacent to the driver. The side of the engine-box sits directly to the right of the drivers' leg and is literally hot enough to burn. We try helping by draping the engine compartment with blankets and that helps a bit, . . . but, even with that, at least some windows must stay open, . . . or the drivers will be killed!

Greg is determined to give Kim plenty of opportunity for some rest. Greg is absolutely determined to at least make it to the Colorado border before handing back driving duties.

. . . Greg's determination fails, however! He finally conks out with about 100 miles to go to Colorado.

Kim takes over and Greg crawls into his my pillows for some much-needed rest. . . . but he finds that his "pile 'o pillows" seems remarkably diminished. The answer to this conundrum is soon evident – Greg finds Mr. Justin Rutter, sound asleep, cradled in a half dozen of Greg's pillows. As Greg later remarks: "Justin is a hateful person."

Kim gets us to Limon and then makes the turnoff to the south. To save on miles, Kim angles us down toward Colorado Springs. The original plan was to go to Denver and then South, but we are paying for the bus at 30 cents a mile, plus fuel, . . . so we take the most direct route, instead.



Kim at the wheel – just past Limon



In Kansas, you must pay!

We've made several rest stops and diesel stops throughout the night. We never leave a place without doing a head count. By the time the trip is over, we are getting quite good at counting heads and then calling out: "We've got Nine, . . . plus Larry!" We thought it'd be a good idea to bring along Greg's "home security mannequin," so we have an extra body on the trip. "Manny," has been renamed "Larry" (by Kim) for the trip and spends his time on the bus peering anxiously out at passing traffic!

DAY TWO

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2008

– ON THE BUS –

FROM LIMON, CO. TO DURANGO



Waking up in Colorado – near Limon

Day Two – Friday, July 18, 2008

Written by: Alex Buse-Oberto

Today started off where yesterday ended, in the bus trying to sleep, with little success. The wind started to get colder and with the windows open made it very uncomfortable, so I stayed up most of the night. The sunrise was cool though.

For breakfast we had a very nutritious assortment of Hunny Buns and powdered doughnuts. After about three hours travel we arrived in Durango. We checked out the campsite that we were staying out at for the night. Afterwards we got a bite to eat at Wendy's (delicious) and saw the "Dark Knight" which was awesome. That wraps things up for today – later.

Alex Buse-Oberto



Editors' Addendum:

When we arrive in Colorado Springs, we pop on Interstate 25 and continue South. Kim soon stops for fuel and Greg takes over driving duties.

Because Durango is so far south, we dip almost down to the New Mexico border before turning back to the West. Our turn West occurs in the small town of Walsenburg. Or, at least it was supposed to. But, alas, Greg missed the turn and we soon found ourselves back on 25 South! We do a U-turn and "try again." This time Greg finds highway 160 and we are headed up into the mountains – mostly foothills for awhile.

We stop for Breakfast in the tiny town of Fort Garland. Jacob leads a food-buying



Sergio and the Sunny D!

expedition into the “Old Fort Market” grocery store. We spread out our nutritious breakfast of donuts and juice on a nearby bench and say Grace and then dig in. Sergio is happy to serve up the “Sunny D”!

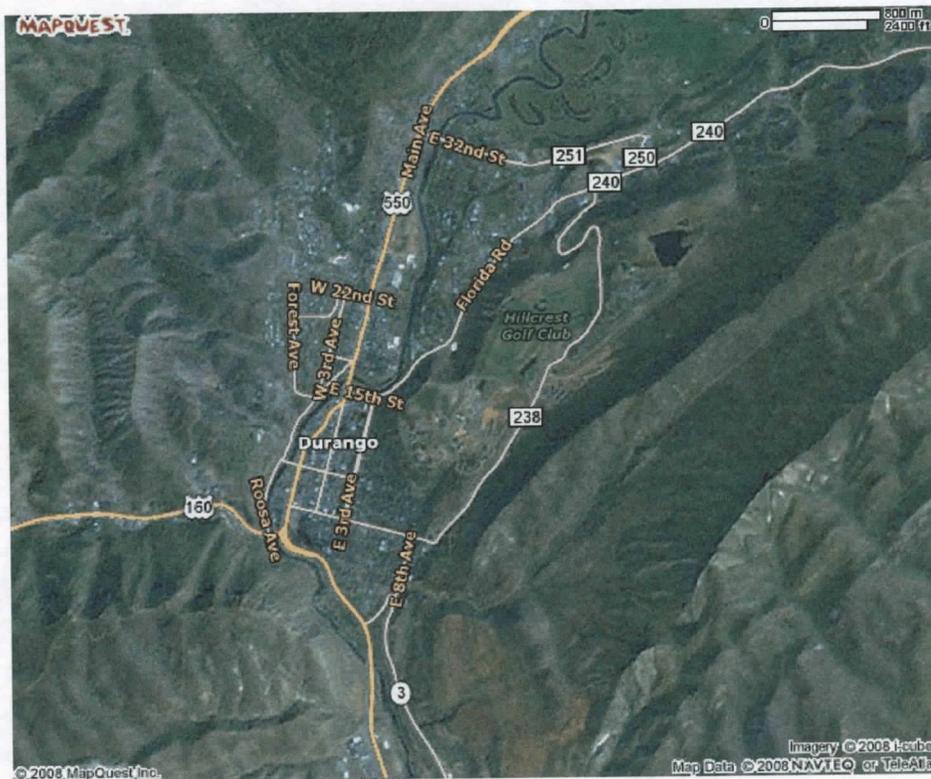
Kim retakes the wheel as we continue West on 160. We are soon following along the upper stretches of the Rio Grande River – very cool.

Some road construction along the way slows us down, but we really are making good time. We need to be in Durango by 4:00 to keep our campground reservations, but easily beat that

mark by arriving closer to 2:00. As we enter the busy city of Durango, we immediately spot two things of interest – a movie theater and a Super Walmart! We also make note of the turnoff to the train depot.

We arrive at United Campground about a mile North of Durango. Kim got us there as if he used to live there! Much better navigating than Greg’s miserable job back in Wahlsenburg!

[note: on the map you see on this page, our campground is located just a little to the right and down from the “550” highway marker shown. And the movie theater and Walmart are “way” on the South side of town just South of where you can see highway 160 heading off to the West]



Unfortunately, when Kim and Greg go in to check in they find out that the camp’s sewers are “out” and it could be “days” before they get fixed. No water; no bathrooms. Hmmmm. But at least the price is right. We later find out that most other campers are paying \$25 apiece to camp there, but we are paying the “boy scout rate” of only \$7.50.

Luckily for us, it didn't take "days" to fix the sewer. In fact, as Kim and Greg stood in the office checking in, the workers reported to the office that "all is fixed"!

Our spot is down at the low end of the campground – just over the railroad tracks! We are going to get to see the train this evening even before riding it tomorrow.

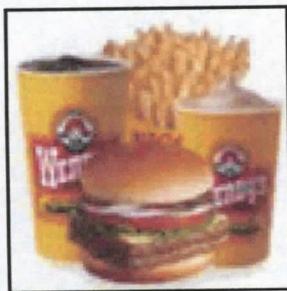
We've got a big group of cross-country bicyclists camped in the two sites immediately North of us, – a youth group. . . . and two little old ladies (70 year old sisters), camping in the site just to our South. Greg helps the ladies get their tent put up as the wind picks up, and is later rewarded for his efforts with kisses from both!



Some of the bikers

Hot showers are available and it's been a long hot ride across Kansas and Colorado; but we haven't had lunch yet and it is 3:00 PM. So, after a vote, we are off to Wendy's.

Kim parks in an empty lot next to Wendy's and we trek in with our Super Trip shirts and full Class B uniform. Jacob dispenses \$5 bills to each of us and we seem to choose wisely from the menu. The plan is now to head to Walmart to pick up the last minute "fresh" groceries we'll need for tomorrow's meals on the trail.



Lunch at Wendy's

But, on the way to Walmart, we see the theater first, and decide to run in to see if it's possible to buy tickets to the opening day of the latest Batman film – "the Dark Knight." Wow! Not only are a very few tickets still available, but there is a Dark Knight showing in just . . . 6 minutes! Kim says "go for it, boys!" . . . and we did! We buy tickets and wait for Greg and Kim who are securing the bus (we parked in an empty field near the theater). Greg soon appears and says "Kim has decided to take a nap – he's been doing most of the driving since early this morning." Since we bought a ticket for Kim, we look around. Should we "scalp" it? (Cuz the movie is now officially "sold out"). Justin and Karl decide the scouting thing to do is to offer the free ticket to a young lady heading into the theater.



The Joker is NOT amused!

Only problem is that, of all the individual theaters in this multi-plex, the Dark Knight one has lost its air conditioning. They've set up a big fan in the entry way to blow in colder lobby air, but it isn't ideal. Greg decides to use his ticket to see a movie with AIR CONDITIONING and so heads over to Journey to the Center of the Earth – Greg missed a great movie.

After the movie, Kim does a masterful job of pulling out of the dirt field we are parked in.

At the time we parked earlier, it was just a big empty field. But maybe because others saw US do it, lots of cars are now parked all the way around our bus. Greg thinks we may have to wait 'em out, but Kim says "no problem." Kim puts out "spotters" on all sides of the bus, but appears to have no difficulty getting out between all the cars.

We now head to Walmart for the last minute fresh items. While the rest of us are buying the food, Greg is off buying stuff for his week alone, including a package of "stick and clicks"! (basically, just a bunch of stick-on flashlights). We buy fruit and bagels for breakfast tomorrow and then back to camp.



Last minute planning and packing

On our way back, we drove to the train station to make sure we knew exactly where it was and exactly how to get there. It was a good thing we did this, in that we got turned around a few times before figuring out the parking lot we would need to be in tomorrow morning.

Back at the campground and most head up for hot showers. We do some last minute planning and packing and then hit the tents. A few choose to leave their tents packed; and they sleep on the bus.

DAY THREE
SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2008
– ON THE TRAIN –
FROM DURANGO TO ELK PARK



We pack up at the Elk Park Trailhead as our Train pulls away

Day Three – Saturday, July 19, 2008

Written by: Justin Rutter

- Got on train in Durango. Train left at 8 am.
- Arrived at Elk Park at 11:30 and started hiking.
- Not much happened. After 5 miles we are now in our tents, making pre-sleep small talk at 7 pm
- There has been a light rain.

Justin Rutter

Editors' Addendum:

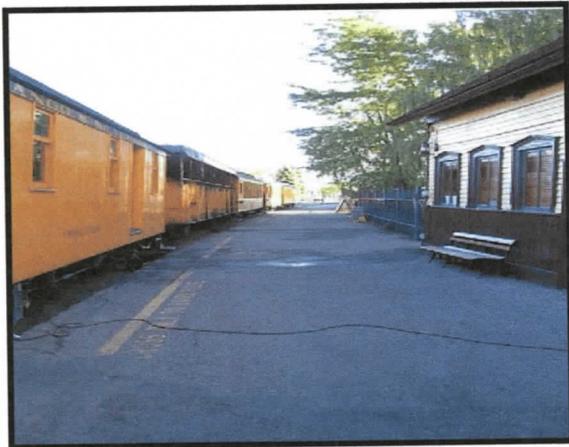
Early up this morning. The “plan” is to arrive about 45 minutes early to the train station so that we can get our gear loaded into a baggage car. We actually do quite well on time. Up when it is still dark and last minute packing. Then onto the bus with Greg at the wheel helm. No breakfast yet – we hope to take care of that on the train!. We arrive at the train station a little late! . . . but we are there well before anyone else has even THOUGHT about arriving! Kim and Greg check in with the ticket agent to see about getting some tickets changed for later in the week.



Michael makes final pack adjustments in early morning

We wandered around wondering where we should load our packs. A conductor corralled us and took us toward the front of the train just behind the coal car. He opens the sliding door and we handed up our gear.

Then we find our covered “coach class” passenger car. We coulda gotten tickets in one of the open “gondola” cars, but the “net” says if you do you’ll show up at your destination covered in soot and breathing coal dust.



We are the first to arrive this morning!

Once we are under way, we break out breakfast – bananas and peaches, and bagels and cream cheese. Jacob provides his knife – the only one with foresight to bring one on the train – for the cream cheese. We offer “extras” to our fellow passengers, but no takers.

Mostly we “stared blankly out the windows” for our 3 hour train ride up into the mountains. The town of Silverton is only 56 miles up the rails, but the train only moves at about 15 miles per hour, so we’ve got about 3 hours to kill before we arrive at Elk Park (last train whistle-stop before Silverton).

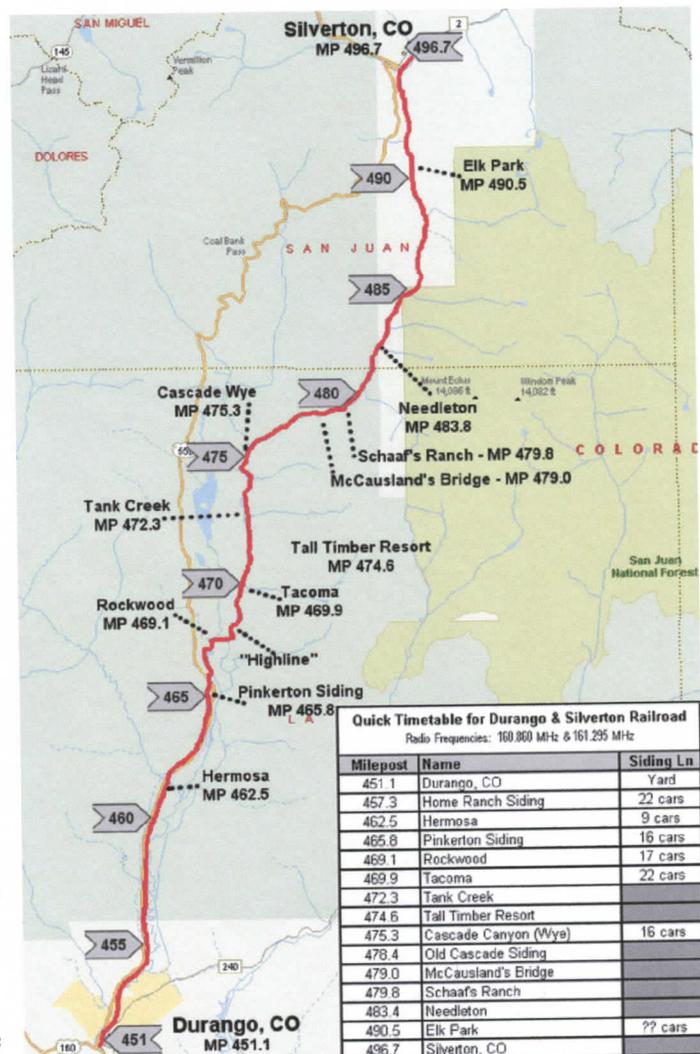
Along the way, a lady train gal tried to sell us a bunch of stuff – sunglasses to keep the coal dust out of our eyes. During which, Jacob responded amusingly to the lady’s spiel. We had a refreshment car in the car right behind us – sodas, popcorn, hot dogs, candy and such. (but nobody bought anything)

We had just a few stops along the way. Once to pick up a bunch of fishermen and then later to drop ‘em off at the side of the tracks. Also we had two stops to take on water (for the steam). And then, . . . we arrive at Elk Park.

At the train dropoff, there is nothing. No platform, no buildings, just tracks and a sign saying “Elk Park”; . . . and a side set of rails heading mysteriously off into the grass.

The conductor quickly unloads our packs and the train moves away. We’d better hope this works, cuz our “ride” just left us stranded in the middle of the Colorado wilderness!

As the train pulls away, we spend some time figuring out where the trail actually starts. The “word” is that the actual hiking trail is to be found further down along the “siding” of tracks that heads off towards the

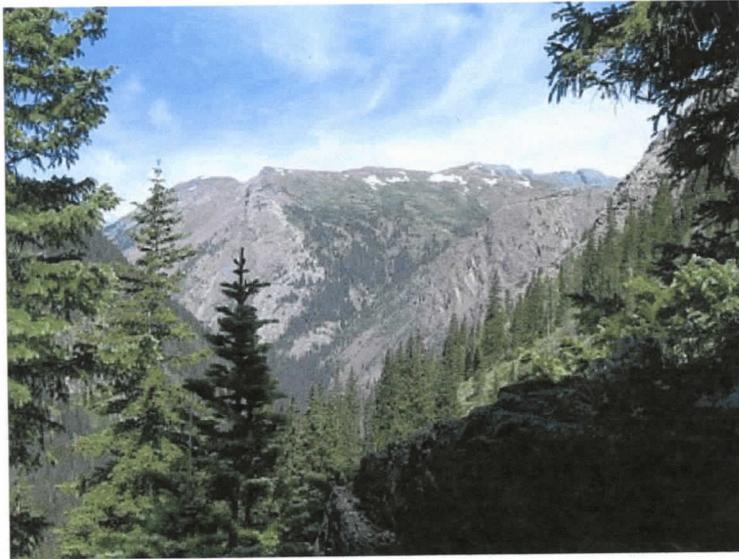


northeast. We, indeed, find the hiking trail, itself. Before leaving, we sign in at a park box.

As soon as we knew we'd found the trail, we stopped and got out lunch. Summer Sausage and crackers and snickers and Countrytime lemonade. It was a "dry" lunch in that we had not yet come up upon Elk Creek.

After lunch, we began a "straight up" incline. It became pretty clear, pretty fast, that we'd taken on quite a chore. Clearly somebody forgot to pack the oxygen. Kim seems to be feeling the lack of oxygen more than most – lagging just a bit.

We reach Elk Creek, maybe 2 miles up the trail. Most of the day's hiking is under trees. Spotted a pretty cool small waterfall along the trail. We made it 5 miles this first day.



Everything is "up" from here!

Soon after we found a great camp spot.

Today, and later in the trip, we've used the "slinky" system of group hiking. Instead of all hiking at the same pace, which you accomplish by putting your slowest man in front, we've used the "hike ahead and then let the tail catch up" system – kinda like pulling the front edge of a slinky out and then letting tail catch up. Jacob, Michael, Sergio and Elliot, tend to be our "fronters" while Kim and Alex have dutifully staked out the rear.

One problem with our hiking system is shown by what happened tonight. The "fronters" missed a decent campsite in the rain that was spotted by the later guys. The Fronters then had to hike back down to where the spot was found.

Once at camp, we set up tents and crashed! Even though it couldn't have been much past 7:30!

We decided to cook dinner at the side of the trail down by the creek, even before reaching our final camping spot – the idea is that we'll have less chance of our cooking smells attracting big, vicious, bears to our camp!. Dinner was scalloped potatoes and pouched chicken – we mixed 'em together and made sandwiches. As Alex says: "once you get past the gag reflex, it's not so bad." Then it's back on with the packs and back onto the trail as we search for a good camping spot. But, before we reach a campsite, it began to rain – pretty strong rain! All got out ponchos or rain gear.

DAY FOUR
SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2008
– ON THE TRAIL –
FROM ELK CREEK ACROSS THE
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE



On top of the Great Divide!

Day Four – Sunday, July 20, 2008

Written by: Michael Bush

Today we woke up at 5:45 to a cold, partly cloudy sky. We started putting our tents away while a few put water on to boil for a breakfast of instant oatmeal. Then we hiked.

Not much happened till we got near the continental divide. Then it got vertical. From there to the divide was some intense hiking. Justin made it first. Then I made it second. I took a nap and then woke up to Elliot and Sergio coming up the path. We ate a lunch of pita-pizza but before all of us finished, Mr. Potzmann gave the order to move out because of possible lightning.

As soon as we got down from the divide, it started to rain. Then it started to hail. Some guys didn't put rain gear on and complained the whole way. When we did finally find a spot, we cooked some Jambalaya. Then we made the decision to turn around. After we got in the tent Karl told us we got to sleep in, so we were happy.

Michael Bush

P.S. Elliot fell on his face.

Editors' Addendum:

For the record, the collective opinion of the Editors, is that . . . "Switchbacks suck."

We aren't so proud of doing so, but we tended to "cut" the switchbacks rather than walk 'em. Kim, though, followed the rules and also used a "rest stop at every turn" system of hiking up the side of that mountain. Michael and Justin were the first to reach the top and took out their ground pads and napped as they waited for the others.

After the interrupted lunch break mentioned by Michael above in the official report of the day, we didn't have too far to go down the other side to our campsite – just about another mile or so. But, for the record, "Downhill is hard hiking too!" In fact, this is where Mr. Ott fell on his

face. On our hike down the back side of the Divide, Elliot tripped and fell on his face. But he popped right back up claiming: "I'm good, I'm good"! We didn't have the heart to tell him that he looked scratched up and had a huge mud smear down his side.

We started out well above the treeline, but soon had hiked down to below the tree line. The "fronters" went on ahead to find a spot to camp. Alex and company set up their tent directly in front of a rock face.

Kim found a spot about 100 yards away. Nearest water is a downhill hike to find a creek.

This afternoon and evening has been especially rough in that the weather can be described as follows:

It rained and then hailed; then it rained; then it rained AND hailed; then more hail; followed by more rain; and then, of course, came the hail.

At least it lightened up a bit by the time we reached our campsite for the night.

Elliot got into an argument with a tree later, and slugged it pretty good. Elliot claims that "the tree started it." In any event, Elliot skinned up his fist!

Dinner tonight was Jambalaya and sopapillas. Not too bad. As usual, we had two stoves going. One we tend to cook on, the other is for hot water.

It's been a tough day, so we all soon bed down. Shortly after we got into our tents, Karl came around with some really happy news – because Kim is not dealing so well with the altitude, . . . and because we are all exhausted anyway . . . we've decided to base camp here tomorrow rather than attempt to fight our way on to Needleton forty miles ahead!

It'll be great to get to sleep in tomorrow for our unexpected LAYOVER DAY!



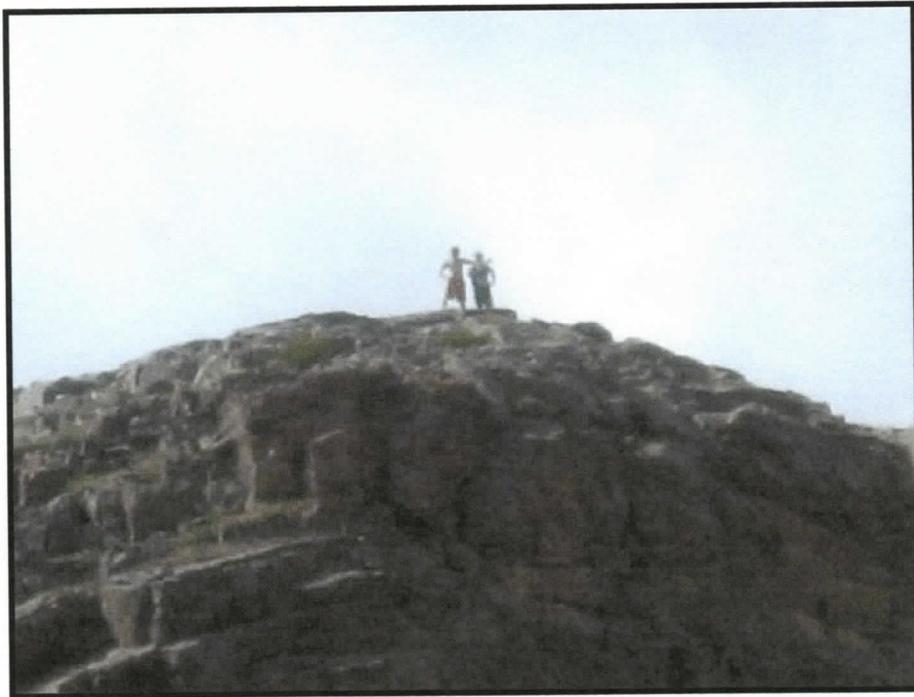
Leaning up against the Continental Divide markers!

DAY FIVE

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008

– ON THE TRAIL –

Layover Day!



Day Five – Monday, July 21, 2008

Written by: Sergio Galarza

Today was by far the best day on the trail. It started off with some much needed sleeping in. Elliot and I rolled out of bed at around 10:00 am. Upon waking up we absolutely crushed some breakfast. We *hooked it up phresh* with some hash browns and chili.

After crushing our breakfast we thought about what we should do with our layover day. Elliot and I, being the complete savages that we are, had already pondered this the night before. We both looked at a nearby peak and pointed. We decided to go on a little day hike to the peak of one of the beautiful mountains that make up the Rockies. The crew willing to tackle such an obstacle consisted of Justin Rutter “The Machine”, who decided to take his pack and carried our lunch and some water. In addition Michael Bush, the . . . well Michael Bush, and of course Elliot and I, the Dynamic duo.

We set out at around noon. Four of the men accepted the challenge, the other four stayed behind. Very soon into our endeavor we realized that we could make it much further then we had originally planned. We climbed to the summit of the nearby mountain and stopped to eat lunch. After looking back at our now tiny campsite, we pressed on. We hiked along the ridge and came across a small pond. Here we commenced our joyous day by stopping for a photo-op and skipping some rocks. When we had our fill we again pressed on. As we savage slapped the mountainside we realized how bad it would have sucked to stay at camp (Sorry Kim, Karl, Jacob, and Alex).

When we finally made it back to the camp, we found out that it had only taken us three hours to conquer our day quest. We scaled shear rock faces, crossed mountain streams, climbed massive snow banks,



bounded from massive boulder to massive boulder, and not to mention saw amazing scenery that only Colorado could provide. On top of our b.a. day, our dinner consisted of, yes, my favorite, Spanish Fiesta. After getting that delicious combination of chicken, rice, and all that spice ALL UP IN OUR BONES, we kicked it by the campfire and chilled before bed. Yah, it was one hell of a day.

Sergio Galarza

Editors' Addendum:

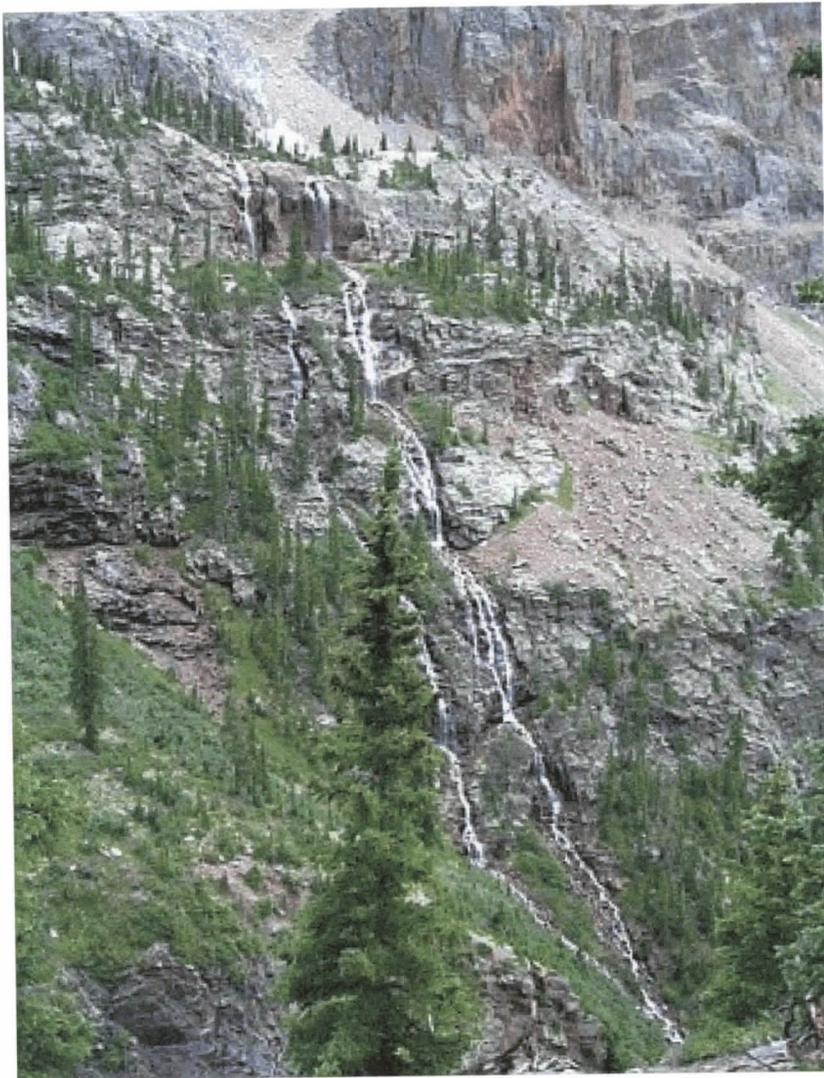
Sounds like these guys had a great hike. . . . but we had a good day, too. As Jacob later described this day: "We got up late . . . and 'just kicked it'"!

DAY SIX

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008

– ON THE TRAIL –

From the Backside of the Divide to Elk Creek

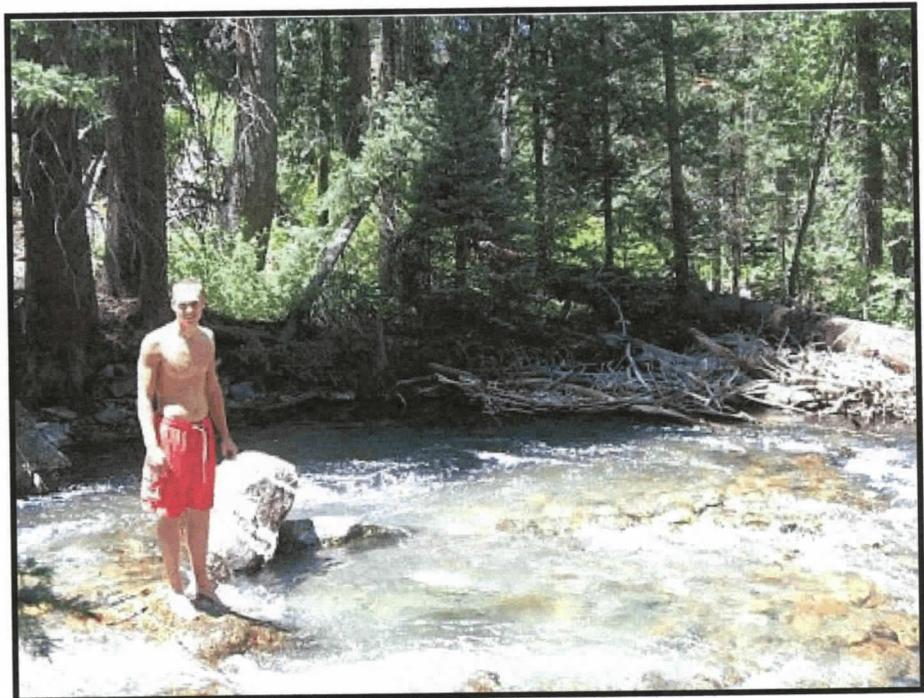


Day Six – Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Written by: Elliot Rutter

Today we woke up early to oatmeal, and we rolled out to crush the Continental Divide. Kim did much better today, and we made good time getting down the other side. Sergio and myself decided to crush a mountain on the side while we waited for everyone to show up. We made it back down in no time.

We had a good lunch of summer sausage, crackers, fruit roll-ups, and limited edition Indiana Jones M&M's. We then hiked down to where we camped our first night on the trail. We set up camp and took a bath in the stream by our tents. Justin made a good dinner of spaghetti and sauce with crepes. We dominated that, threw stuff at Michael, and now we're getting ready for bed.



There was no significant rain today, which makes the whole day a lot brighter. Keep it real.

NASTAY!

Elliot Rutter

Editors' addendum:

We should add that, as we were hiking down the intensely steep slope that IS the Divide trail, we met a lone woman hiker who was heading up the trail, and who had an opinion about switchbacks that she proceeded to relay to us. In particular, she complained to Justin who then shouted down to us: "hey, quit cutting switchbacks or I'll kill your whole family!"

After we successfully descended from the Divide and set up our second-to-last campsite, we had dinner. After dinner, Michael climbed up on a big nearby rock. Sergio began a new sport by flinging a stick at "the guy on the rock." Then Elliot, and even Jacob. Elliot later built a "spear" with a carved sharp end . . . but he didn't fling it at anyone! Some of us were throwing knives at a tree. Sergio "squawked" about almost getting hit by a flying knife and then Kim calls from his tent "WHO has the knife?!" That was one good way to end the game! We think Greg would have had a slight variation: "Gentlemen, find something else to do with your time!"

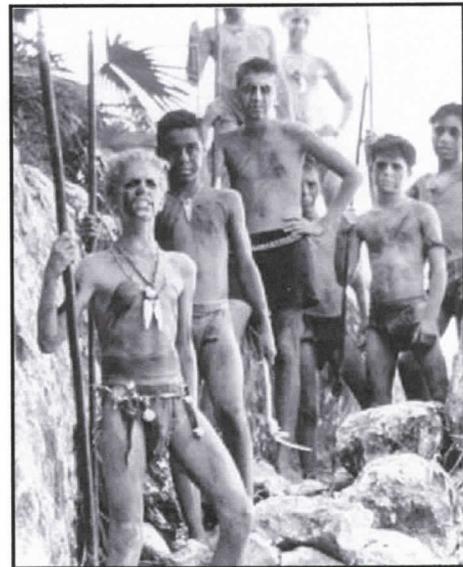
About this same time began the "great shun." Elliot decided to "shun" Michael because of some alleged "stupid" remark.



Sergio practices knife-throwing

From this point on, if Elliot needed something from Michael it was

"would someone tell Michael . . . !" When he chose to talk to Michael directly, Mr. Ott, to follow the shun rules, would first have to say "Unshun" – and then he could speak to Michael. Hey, it's been a long week and we have to do something to keep amused!



Elliot and the guys make spears – as you can see, it's been a rough six days in the backwoods

DAY SEVEN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008

– ON THE TRAIL –

Short hike day



Day Seven – Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Written by: Karl Potzmann

We started the day with the best breakfast yet, of pancakes and bacon. Justin decided to wake up before everyone else and make sure that we ate well so that he could prove how much of a man he was. After we finished eating, he decided to take all of the water bottles and pump them by himself. While the rest of us cleaned up and got ready,

Justin was nowhere to be found. Sergio and Elliot found him about five minutes later and he was about done pumping.

Once Justin was finally all packed we set out for our day of hiking. We stopped for a lunch of peanut butter and jelly tortillas a couple of hours later. We decided that we should stop and find a campsite where we first pumped water. A little before we got there, our daily rain came down. Upon arriving there was not enough room for all of us



Grizzly Bear eyes were spotted in the Dark!



Maybe it was just a deer

to tent. Kim and "The Machine" searched backwards and forwards for a usable site. Justin managed to find one a couple of yards back (about ¼ mile).

After much debate about who would pump water, Justin and I finally get enough water to make our delicious supper of souper-rice. After cleanup and getting everything put away, we hear that it is getting close to 7:00, and that means that it is bedtime.

Karl Potzmann

Editors' Addendum:

The pudding was gross. Let's not have "pudding in a bag" ever again. Tonight we had a lengthy discussion about how we were all going insane. Alex was seen to burst into a bout of maniacal laughter. Kim led a group discussion about lexicon. Second worst rain day – just enough rain to make folks miserable, and yet still must get work done

DAY EIGHT
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2008
– ON THE TRAIL –
FROM ELK CREEK TO THE TRAIN



A beautiful sight! Our backwoods "taxi" arrives on time, and stops to let us on!

Day Eight – Thursday, July 24, 2008

Written by: Kim Potzmann

Today we woke up to a beautiful sunny mountain morning. We camped in a little valley and all the tents were wet, but at least we got to sleep a little longer because the hike to the train is so short. We ate our oatmeal, packed up, and hit the trail. When we arrived at the trail-head, Elliot signed us out and we made our way to the train tracks.

It was 11:10, just in time to flag the 11:15 train to Silverton. I thought that the sound of the train whistle (one long and three shorts means the train is stopping) was wonderful. The conductor told us we could ride to Silverton and he would make sure we got on the right train back. Our packs were loaded and we boarded. Once the train was under way, the conductor asked if we were the Boy Scouts that the man two cars back was waiting for. There was Greg, on the train to meet us!

We were schedule to have Ramen noodles for lunch, but everyone was so tired of backpacking cooking that we went to Natalias buffet in Silverton; salad bar & meat & potatoes & veggies. We ate & ate & ate. After our money-man (Jacob) paid the bill, we



went to catch the train back to Durango. The train ride was spectacular and we waved goodbye to “our” trail through the San Juan National Forest. We had hiked for miles and days, crossing the Continental Divide twice, living on nothing but what we had packed in on foot. As I waved goodbye I realized how proud I was of these seven Scouts.

We claimed our packs from the train when we were in Durango, and walked to the bus. Once on the bus we realized we were parked in by other vehicles. “Never fear,” said master driver Greg, as he turned the wheels once and took that bus between cars where it would have been a challenge for two people to walk side by side.

Back at the campground we took all our leftovers (rice, Ramen noodles, beans, etc.) and Karl and Justin volunteered to make a pot of Souper-rice (why is it called SOUPer when it is not soupy?). We ate, showered, did some laundry, and went to bed, ready to attack whatever the next day would bring.

Kim Potzmann

Thursday, July 30 Addendum from the back-up bus drivers’ perspective:

by Greg Scott

I’m up early to catch the train. If all works as planned, the guys will flag down the train at Elk Park and I’ll be there to welcome them aboard. My train ticket puts me on the 9:00 a.m. train, however, and that train does NOT stop at Elk Park. Each morning, three trains leave Durango for Silverton – 8:15, 9:00 and 9:45. Each train has different stops along the way. Then, when all trains arrive in Silverton, they line up to come back in the same order they arrived – 8:15 train leaves Silverton at 2:00; 9:00 leaves at 2:45; 9:45 leaves at 3:15.

So, I’m heading in early to the train station to see if I can get my ticket changed to allow me to ride the 8:15 express! Under the original plan, the guys would be coming out at Needleton (and the 9:00 a.m. train makes that stop). No big deal if I get stuck on the 9:00 a.m. train. I won’t see ‘em at Elk Park, but I’ll be up there at least for some “overlap time” in Silverton.

One reason it would be nice to hook up with 'em on the 8:15 train and at Elk Park, is that I have all the money!! I've even got Kim's wallet! If I can hook up with 'em at Elk Park, I can pass off the money and the guys will have plenty of cash for a fancy Silverton lunch! I feel a little obvious with all pockets bulging with cash. My wallet; Kim's wallet; and 7 envelopes full of Jacob's "money man" cash.

Anyway, I carefully exit the campground despite an Explorer parked on a curve in the road. I carefully edge by and congratulate myself on how safe I was when I realize the Explorer now has a huge scrape/dent down its side exactly the same height as the bus rear bumper. Ouch. Even has a stripe of black paint. Ouch. But the owner is sitting in the drivers' seat and not yelling at me. And I heard and felt nothing. I convince myself the dent pre-existed. . . . and then drive on. . . . but I worry about that for the rest of the day! "Did I; . . . or didn't I??"

Park at the train station and pay the \$9 parking fee. Getting pretty good at finding my way around town.

Check in with the ticket office and it's "impossible" to change the ticket. I offer to ride "gondola" which is an open car that fills with soot from the coal train. "Agreed!" So, I'm "all aboard!"

Ride from Durango to Silverton is 3 ½ hours. . . . and I've done it once before! Average speed is about 15 miles per hour, plus stops. (but the stops rarely last more than 5 minutes).

My gondola is only half full. Lots of space. Not sure why the ticket gal was concerned about switching me to this train. Gotta give 'em credit, however, for accommodating us – every time we asked for a change, we got it – and no extra charge.

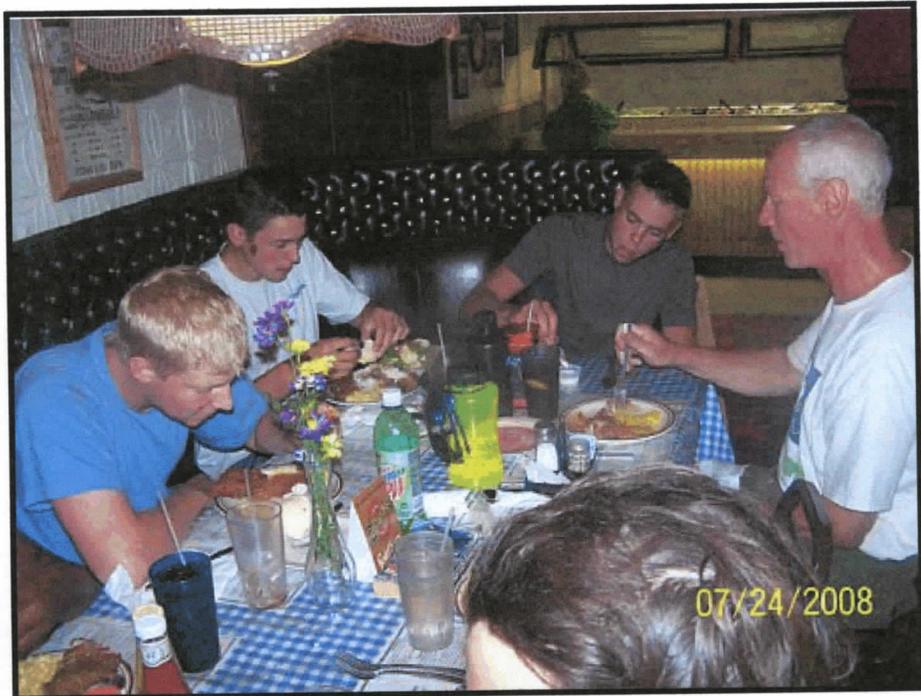
Elk Park is the last stop before Silverton. Nothing at Elk Park except a bunch of big rocks to sit on. But the guys ARE there! They load their packs and board the train a few cars ahead. I decide to wait 'em out a bit before sneaking forward. But Kim anticipated that I'd likely have made the ticket switch and soon comes back looking for me. He looks terrific. In great spirits and excellent health. Big grin on his face. Seems to be happy to be back in civilization, but obviously had a great time. I



Kim comes back to find Greg. You just can't fool the man with the Green "do" rag!

follow Kim back to the closed car where the guys are sitting and make 'em tell me stories!

Arrive in Silverton about 11:45 and off we get. Mr. Ott is convinced he needs something out of his pack, and so talks a young lady into handing down the packs. Because the guys are SUPPOSED to be on the 9:00 a.m. train, they unload ALL the packs to transfer 'em to the 9:00 a.m. train when it arrives. But the conductor – a very nice



guy – says “hey, there is room on this train if you’d like to stay on it going back.” The guys – with the young lady’s help – now reload the packs and then we are off in search of lunch! Kim, now flush with wallet and cash, says “we can either build a fire here in town and make Ramen Noodles, . . . or you can let me buy lunch at the nearest restaurant!” The decision is made in mere seconds! I had good luck last week in Natalia’s, and it has a buffet, and so there we go. “Lucy” the waitress is our server, and the guys eat quite well.



After lunch – which was grand – the guys disperse to explore. Kim uses his magic satellite machine to send a “Natalia’s Restaurant” Google Earth marker! Alex buys a postcard and mails it home.

On the train, heading back, Kim is very amusing. There is an abandoned silver mine we can see off on a mountainside and he says to me “do you know whose that is?” I say “no.” Kim says “mine.” Arrrrrgh.

Soon we are deep into the mountains and only then do I think about my cell phone. In the past week, Sonja Ellis has sent a number of funny emails in which she insists she misses her son! (Not that missing her son is funny; but the emails were drafted in a thoroughly amusing way!). Even

though we are now deep in the mountains, I find that I still have service on my \$16 Walmart prepaid phone! I hand it to Mr. Cob and tell him “call your Mother!”

The trouble is that Jacob KNOWS that I don’t own a cell phone, and KNOWS that I enjoy tricking people with those fake “shocking” phones and such. So, he refuses to touch it until I make a call of my own. When Jacob does make his call, . . . Sonja is not home! But Jacob got to catch up with his Dad. And, once the call ended, we were so deep in the mountains that no second call “to Dillard’s” was possible. Sorry, Sonja, but we tried!

As we descend on the train through the mountains, the cuts of the roadbed are often incredibly tight. Some of the guys wonder if they could reach out and touch the rocks as we pass. . . . but none would EVER actually do it.



Jacob reaches for the rocks!

Back to Durango. Once we got down out of the mountains, we spotted lots of prairie dogs and holes along the trainbed. Saw some glider planes land. Saw lots of rafters, tubers, and “duckers” floating along the Animus River.

As we wound our way down through the mountains towards Durango, the skies grew dark and threatened heavy rain. Karl said “it’ll rain; it ALWAYS rains starting at 2:30.” I merely looked at him with disdain, and said: “nope, 6:30.” He insisted on 2:30. Silly Karl.



As we got down to the flatlands near Durango, it is about 6:00p.m. And the skies are blacker and the wind is fiercer than ever. Karl: “looks bad.” Greg, sniffing in disdain: “not ‘til 6:30.”

As we pull into town, at 6:25, it begins to rain. . . . and Karl has the audacity to say “you were wrong, Greg.”

Once back on the bus, with gear, the guys have to decide whether to spend their food dollars

on fast food, or cook up contingency food and leftovers. I'm hoping for true food! But the guys wisely choose to do some cooking back at the campground. Upon our return with the bus to the campground, I see no police or sheriff, and deduce that I did NOT smash the Explorer this morning!

Guys quickly set up tents cuz, although the rain has now stopped, it's still threatening and the wind is still blowing. Once tents are up, the guys hit the hot showers; and Karl and Justin and Kim and I get some cooking done. Souper rice with Ramen Noodle "filler."

It's great to be back with the crew! I check email that night in my tent with the elusive "low signal" wi-fi, and then call it a night.

Greg Scott



Sonja's worst nightmare! The train tumbles off its tracks!



But that never really happened, and all is well!

DAY NINE
FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2008
– ON THE BUS –
FROM DURANGO TO CANON CITY



Royal Gorge KOA Campground – Volleyball court in far right background

Day 9 – Friday, July 25, 2008

Written by Greg Scott

Up at 5:30 with the routine I developed in the past 6 days with the guys in the backwoods. Before anything else, I head to the laundry/shower rooms to charge the battery in my laptop! One hour charge each morning and I'm good for the rest of the day. Rest of crew arises closer to 6:30. Oh, by the way: "423." . . . the guys will know what that means.

The guys load the bus in amazingly "quick time." We've got plenty of miles to put behind us today as our goal is to arrive at Royal Gorge in time to get one of the "first come; first served" campground spots. Since it's a Friday, we're concerned that spots may fill up if we don't hustle.

As Kim takes the wheel and pulls around parked cars to leave the campground, I walk alongside. There are plenty of parked cars along the narrow gravel campground roadway that makes maneuvering "problematic" at best. Lots of cars parked in difficult positions – especially at the turn at the end of the lane. As Kim makes the final turn, I chat with the fellow whose explorer I feared I might have dented the day before – luckily I didn't even come close and it was an old "bash" on the side that fooled me.

One final stop before we leave Durango – . . . the Super Wal-Mart, of course!

But how to keep the Wal-Mart stop from eating up too much of our time?? Well, the ten-minute challenge, of course! Jacob is our "money man" and he's been doing a superb job. His task this morning is to recruit a crew to "get in and get out" with a healthy and nutritious breakfast! Before Jacob and company get off the bus, I issue a challenge to Mr. Cob – "sir, there ain't no way it'll happen; and I know I'm being silly; . . . but, I have a 'stick and click' light with your name on it IF you can 'get in and get out' in less than 10 minutes." Mr. Cob studies that

“stick and click.” It is a silver “stick and click.” It is a shiny “stick and click.” It is the only “stick and click” on the bus – other than my own! Mr. Cob says “done!”

Now there isn't any way to get in and out of a Super Walmart on a Friday morning, including finding food and getting back through the checkout in only ten minutes. . . . but that is a GOOD thing, because I'll still be the only person on the trip with the magic “stick and clicks”!

However, I am a bit disturbed to see that Jay Cob, and company, are actually running as they enter the store.

5 minutes – no way

7 minutes – I am more at ease

9 minutes – and I light up a cigar in pre-celebration.

9 minutes, 30 seconds and I am breathing a sigh of relief.

9 minutes, 40 seconds, Mr. Cob and company spring around the corner.

I, being the good sport that I am, leap off the bus and build a barricade of shopping carts to slow Jay Cob down.

But they were empty carts and Mr. Cob made short work of getting through them.

9 minutes, 52 seconds, and Mr. Cob (and company) climb aboard the bus.

There are now two Troop 707 members who happen to own shiny, silver, “stick and clicks.”

Breakfast consists of two dozen donuts; apples; orange juice and chocolate milk. We eat as Kim drives.

It is 5 hours to Canon City (home of the Royal Gorge).

One stop for diesel at Pagosa Springs – and Kim learns that VISA won't allow him to spend more than \$50 for fuel at a single stop. Methinks VISA doesn't understand what has



happened to gas prices lately.

Even though it is now 9:30 in the morning, all the guys are still sacked out, with the exception of Alex. Heck, Justin and Karl didn't even wake up when we were handing out the breakfast of donuts and milk. Onward a couple of hours to a Shamrock station where we take a second break. Then Northward as Kim rips the bottom halves of his scout pants off – fighting the engine compartment furnace.

We find ourselves in Salida at Noon and the guys choose a restaurant called “McDonalds” for lunch. The restaurant had some tasty items and I think there might be some franchising potential here. We must leap a mighty ditch of running water to get from the bus to dry land.

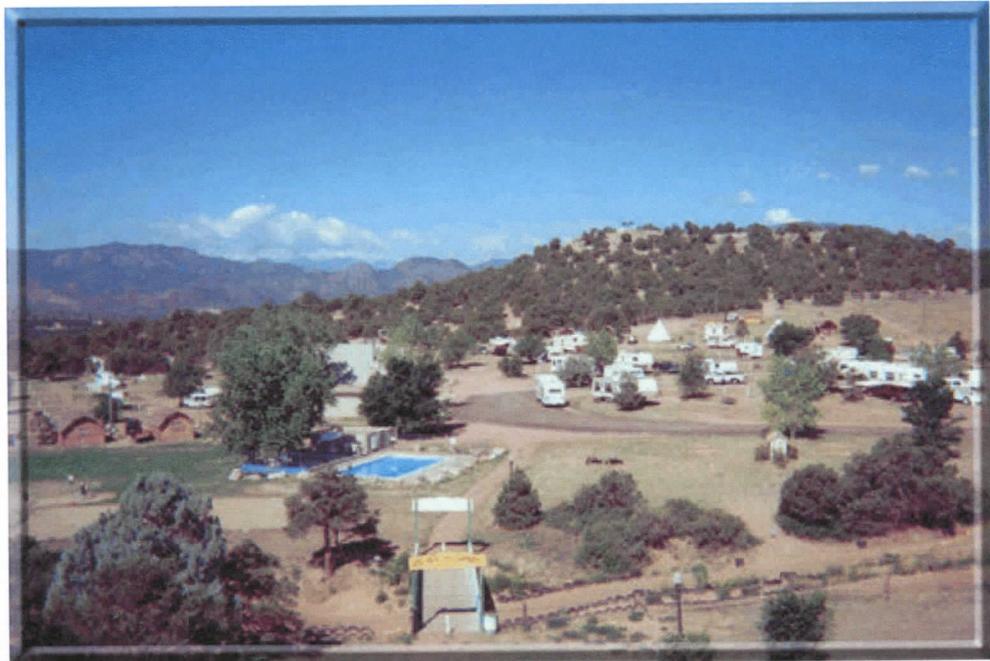
Leaving Salida behind, we now find ourselves following the Arkansas river – the river the guys will be rafting tomorrow through the Gorge. Cool river. We spot some deer along the way. As we near Canon City, we begin to scope out potential campgrounds. The good news is that most appear to have plenty of vacancies.

We arrive in Canon City and decide to go ahead and check in with the whitewater outfitters. Kim checks in but it is still only 3:00 or so in afternoon. Guys discuss several possibilities – movie, public pool, the Gorge. We decide that instead of paying admission to a public pool and then pay again for a campground, we'll kill two birds with one stone. Back up the hill to a KOA campground that is supposed to have lots of activities. The KOA is about a half mile after you turn off highway 50 down the road to Royal Gorge.



KOA main office

Kim and I go into the KOA office to check in and meet some mighty friendly folks who say they are always delighted to have boy scout groups stay in the camp.



The camp gives us a great “boy scout” Bird’s eye view of the KOA camp; our site is just off-screen to the left next to the cabins; the “Marco Polo” swimming pool is seen near the middle

discount – \$6.50 per person. We find our spot and the guys spend the balance of the afternoon playing volleyball and swimming. Justin later said “I never had so much fun in a pool!”

It’s been threatening rain and the wind has been blowing fierce. Jacob’s tent is set up, but not staked down. Mr. Potzmann borrows MY tent stakes and heads out to chase down Jacob’s tent. The tent is literally blowing away like a tumbleweed.

As it gets dark, the guys slowly return. Michael, Alex and Jay Cob take over cooking duties and the plan is to have fancy tacos tonight. It’s probably around 10:00 p.m. before we eat, and all are ready for Grace. A



most excellent meal, gentlemen!

Most of us stay up later than we should, just talking. Good comradeship. Jacob finally manages to get a call through to his mother around 11:15 Columbia time. I tell him how late that'll be back in Columbia, but he just looks at me and says "A mother needs to talk to her son!" I suppose he is right!



A most-excellent soft taco!

Alex, Justin and I have decided to sleep on the bus. When our late night chat session ends, we retreat to the yellow box, while all others find their way to the tents.

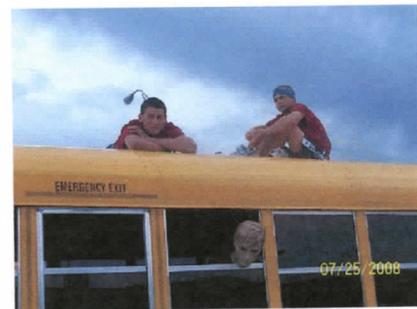
It's been a full day.

Greg Scott

Editors' Addendum:

Greg forgot to mention that after checking in with the Rafting folks, we stopped at a grocery store for ice, hamburger and cheese. We were supposed to also buy stuff for breakfast but somebody forgot! (And, as a consequence of forgetting, we had to listen to Greg recite his dumb 'ole Chinese proverb again: "the strongest memory is weaker than the palest ink!"). Greg later saved the day by buying muffins and donuts at the KOA office. While Jacob and friends went in to buy food, the rest of the guys popped the bus hatches and climbed out on top to wait.

We had a lot of fun at the KOA campground. We left Greg and Kim back at the campsite and the rest of us headed over to play volleyball. The court is composed of "sand and Jesus thorns." Karl dove to get a ball and soon wished he didn't! Came up with a hand full of thorns. Every time the ball hit the ground, we had to pull thorns out of it before re-serving. Must have played 7 or 8 games. A huge wind came along, threatening rain, but we just kept playing. It did rain on us "just a bit" but not long and not too bad.



Waiting for the grocery guys

After VB, we all headed to the swimming pool. Bunch of little kids from other campsites were in the pool but they soon joined in our water hijinks games. We took some time to throw things at Michael – like a frisbee. Then we shifted to "Marco Polo"; then a game of silent "Marco Polo"! Hilarious. Stayed in the pool for more than an hour – maybe two Then back to camp. Most took showers. Jacob, Michael and Alex were in charge of cooking the Taco/Burritos tonight and it did take quite awhile. It was around 10:00 p.m. when we finally ate – but the Tacos were terrific!

DAY TEN

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2008

– ON THE WATER –

FROM ARKANSAS RIVER TO KANSAS



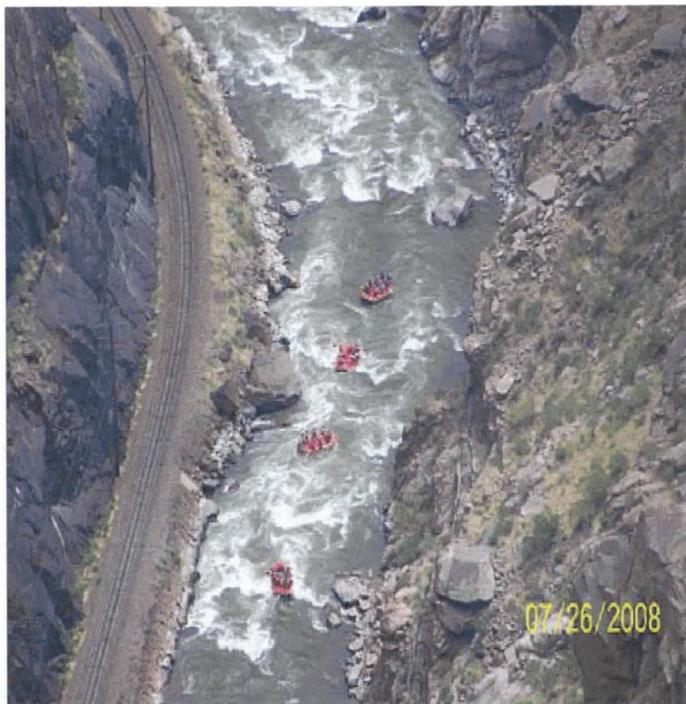
Day Ten – Saturday, July 26, 2008

Written by: Jacob Ellis

Today was pretty cool. We woke up and we went rafting at the Royal Gorge. During the rafting trip we went under the Royal Gorge bridge which is the highest suspension bridge in the world. After we got back from rafting, we got some lunch and headed for the Royal Gorge bridge.

Once we got to the bridge there were lots of different things to do other than just walking on the bridge. There was food, gift shops, wild life park, and a sky coaster

which is a swing that lifts you up 100 ft. into the air and you pull a rip cord that drops you and launches you forward and gives you a view after the 1,500 drop over the gorge. Elliot, Sergio and I went on the swing. Sergio got to pull the rip cord after winning over Elliot in rock, paper, scissors. That was the best way to end out our trip.

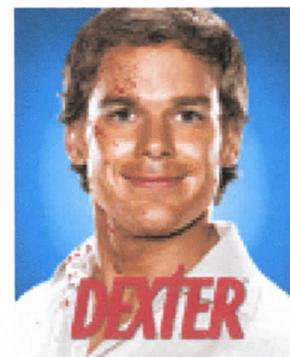


Looking down on 'em from Royal Gorge Bridge

Jacob Ellis

Editors' Addendum:

Greg drove us to the outfitters early this morning. www.raftmasters.com. The outfitter is located back down in Canon City, itself. Greg plans on remaining on the bus while we raft – he said something about wanting to catch up on some back episodes of “Dexter” on his laptop! At the outfitters, we check out our equipment (helmets, jackets, wetsuit booties, etc.) and then wait for the bus.

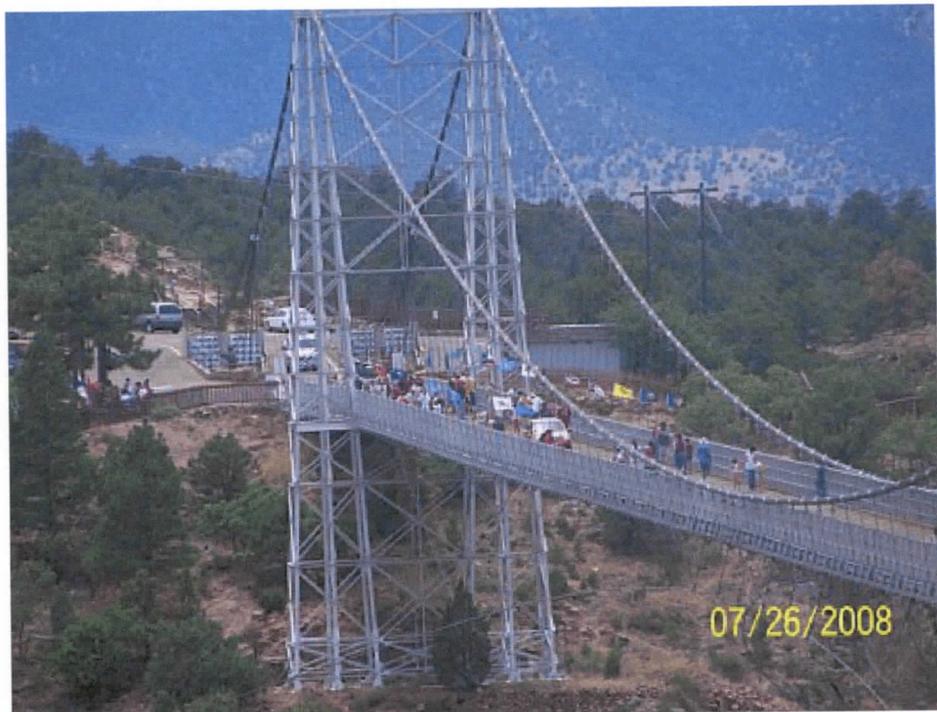


The bus ride is only about 20 minutes back up the hill to the put-in. Our raft has a name and it is "Jeanette". Our raft guide has a name and it is "Fleur." We got two safety talks before getting out into the river – one back at the outfitter's; the other at riverside. All the 707 guys will be in the same raft. The rapids were 'way' cool. Seeing the Royal Gorge bridge from underneath was also 'way' cool. A raft ahead of us flipped as it went through one of the big rapids. Everybody but the guide in back got knocked out.

After the rafting was over, we rejoined Greg back at the Outfitters. It is about lunch time, so head over to the nearest McDonalds. From there, we decide to head back up to the Royal Gorge park and "check it out."

We should note that the KOA camp is back up in the mountains at the turnoff to the Gorge. Every time we go up or down the hill (to and from Canon City) is about a 9 mile trip – one way. And we sure do seem to be going up and down it a lot in these last couple of days!

The road getting to the Gorge is quite narrow – especially for a big ole school bus. But, with Greg at the wheel, we make it there. As we pull into the parking area, we see that there are hundreds and hundreds of folks ahead of us and the nearest parking appears to be about a quarter mile away. But, Greg and Kim spot a bus spot immediately in front of the main entrance – about 50 feet away! Greg does a u-turn to "claim" the spot and Walmart Greeters board the bus to welcome us to the park. (but they are much cuter than your typical Walmart greeters).



Kim cuts a deal for entry tickets for us all – but it's still almost \$20 per person.

We immediately disperse to the far corners of the park. The bridge, itself, is very cool. And it's not just a walking bridge. Not many cars cross, but a few do.

Jacob, Sergio and Elliot head for the bungee extreme station. For about \$30, they are strapped into a death machine and then launched out over the Gorge! Very cool; very scary.

After leaving the park, Greg still has the wheel and we finally leave Canon City behind us. Our goal is to make it to Colorado Springs for our traditional end-of-trip “sit down” dinner.

We get to Colorado Springs and Justin is on the phone with one of our Eagle Alums who lives in Colorado Springs – Alex Sable-Smith. We get turned around a bit as we attempt to rendezvous with Alex, but soon hook up with him. He suggests we go to a well-known local BBQ place and we are off. The wait is about 45 minutes, but they manage to seat us all at one table. The “grub is good.” Greg and Alex catch up on old times. As we waited outside for a table, Greg tried to get us to act as restaurant greeters to smaller arriving parties – but we didn’t.



Elliot, Jacob and Sergio go flying



Jacob paid the bill, we dropped Alex back at his car, and we headed for home.

The highway back towards Limon was very difficult. Two lane. Nonstop headlights coming back towards town. Very difficult to see. But, about an hour out of town the oncoming traffic died down and the driving became easier.

Greg kept the wheel until Limon, where we stopped for fuel. Kim then took over and, almost single-handedly, took us back across the horrible state of Kansas and back to civilization!



Sit-Down Dinner!

DAY ELEVEN
SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2008
– ON THE BUS –
FROM COLORADO TO COLUMBIA



Day Eleven – Sunday, July 27, 2008

Written by: The Editors

It's been a long ride through Kansas. Greg and Kim have been trading off driving, but Kim is definitely doing the most. Our goal was to arrive in Columbia about 9:30 in the morning, but it looks like we've lost about an hour off our timetable. Kim has called ahead, and so we have parents and family waiting to greet us!

We've had a VERY good trip!

Alex, Jacob and Michael



THE END!

Quotable Quotes:

Karl (deadpan expression): “Justin is smarter, stronger and better looking than Karl”!

Michael: “Awwww, come on, guys!”

Greg (numerous times to anyone who would listen): “You see guys, it was a ‘cash cache’! Get it?”!

Jacob: “Do I have to do everything?! Well, Michael, answer the question!”

The Joker: “I’m not a monster
I’m just ahead of the curve.”

Elliot: “Let’s crush this!”

Jacob: “Oh, I am bad, baby!”

Alex (at the KOA campground near Canon City after getting back from swimming in the pool): “Jacob and Michael decided not to take their knives into the pool.”

Greg: “Each step you take today, is one less you’ll have to take tomorrow”

Justin (responding to the lady who asked “are you with those boys down there?”): “. . . and I’m also with you!”

Kim: “Who wants to babysit?”

Jacob: “What’s good?”

Elliot (to Sergio!): “Photo Opp!”

“Gravity . . .,” says Elliot;
“wants to bring me down!” agrees Sergio

The guys ask: “Hey, Jacob, how you doing?” . . . “I’m straight!!” Jacob answers

Elliot and Sergio: “LOOK! ANOTHER MOUNTAIN! . . . let’s climb it!”

All together: “Shut up, Michael!”

Sergio: “Gooooo!”

Alex: “Silence”

Group: “Where’s Justin?? . . . oh, at the top of the mountain”

Elliot and Sergio: “False!”

Jacob: “Did you know that the famous serial killer Alex Buse-Oberto sucks at silent Marco-Polo?”

Justin: “Let’s get high!”

Karl (to everybody): “You’ll never make to Dixie Pass!”

Jacob: “What’s good?”

Elliot and Sergio: “Get it in your bones!”

Railing the Rockies '08 – Tentative Budget (assuming 10 going)

	PROJECTED			
	<u>Per Person</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Savings</u>
Transportation				
Bus Mileage (2050 miles roundtrip X .3 per mile)		\$615	\$600	
Bus Rental (\$100 X 10)		\$1,000	\$1,000	
Fuel (2050/ 8 mpg X \$4.80)		<u>\$1,230</u>	<u>\$1,414</u>	
	\$284	\$2,845	\$3,014	-169
Food				
Travel (B,L,D; B,L. – trail – D; B,L,Sit; B) \$2 Break; \$5 lunch; \$5 Dinner; \$16 Sit-Down	(\$54)	\$539	\$523	+\$16
Nataylia's Lunch		\$0	\$127	-\$127.57
Trail (\$1 Break; \$3 lunch; \$4 dinner) Sat (D); Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs (BLD); Fri (B only)	(\$49)	\$495	\$374	<u>+\$121</u>
Food Total:	\$103	\$1,034	\$1,224	+\$10
Train				
\$75 per person plus \$66 "reservation change" fee	\$89	\$891	\$1,215	-\$324
Raft				
Royal Gorge Half day (\$70)	\$77	\$770	\$503	+\$267
Miscellaneous				
Odds and Ends (Ice, Tolls, Parking, movie)	\$20	\$200	\$100	+\$100
Camping (3 nights X \$7) Durango & KOA Royal Gorge	\$23	\$231	\$248	-\$17
Royal Gorge Admission (9 X \$18)	-0	-0	\$162	-\$162
T-Shirts (2 shirts X \$7.50)(+2)	\$18	\$180	\$251	-\$71
Maps	-0	-0	\$64	-\$64
Log Book (11 X \$8)	<u>\$9</u>	<u>\$88</u>	<u>\$125</u>	<u>-\$37</u>
	\$70	\$699	\$724	-\$251

GRAND TOTAL:	Projected:	\$624 per person	\$6,239
	Actual	\$670 per person	<u>\$6,680</u>
			- \$441 (deficit)

Paying for it:

Troop Subsidy: = \$3034 (Airshow \$682; Airshow \$552; Quarry \$1000; Gen. Funds \$800)
 Scouts paid in: = \$3,200 (Eagles \$400; Scouts \$500)
 \$6,234 – 446 deficit (likely paid out of general scout fund)
 \$353 of deficit due to Natalia's, Royal Gorge admit, maps

Planned Itinerary

Thurs July 17 – Leave Columbia:, 6pm

Friday July 18

- Arrive Colorado Springs: 8 am
- Arrive Durango 3:00 p.m.
 - catch a movie?
 - Buy last minute trail food

Saturday July 19 (hiking Day One)

- 8:15 am Board train in Durango
- 11:18 am Arrive at Elk Park
- Lunch at trailhead
- After lunch 4 to 5 mile hike up Elk Creek, camp along creek

Sunday July 20 (hiking Day Two)

- from Elk Creek to Beartown Trailhead

Monday July 21 (hiking Day Three)

- Beartown Trailhead to 4 mile south of Valecito/Rock Creek trailhead at Thunder Mountain

Tuesday July 22 (hiking Day Four)

- Thunder Mountain to Columbine Lake at Columbine Pass

Wednesday July 23 (hiking Day Five)

- Columbine Lake to Needle Creek below Chicago Basin

Thursday July 24 (hiking Day Six)

- Needle Creek trail downhill to Needleton train stop – catch train at 3:45 p.m.
- Back in Durango by 6:30 p.m.

Friday July 25

- drive to Royal Gorge in a.m. (5 hour drive; 295 miles)
- check in with outfitter; set up camp

Saturday July 26

- Half day raft trip through Royal Gorge \$70 per person in the A.M. (9:00 a.m. to Noon)
<http://www.raftecho.com/colorado-rafting-trips/half-day/index.php>
- Explore Royal Gorge Park
- Sit Down Dinner in Colorado Springs
- Begin drive back home

Sunday July 27

- drive back to Missouri!

For a Day-by-Day Satellite “repeat” of the trip, head to these cites, in order!

- Fri 7/18/2008 5:47 PM:** (In the United Campground in Durango)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.2388,-107.8694&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Sat 7/19/2008 1:07 PM** (Just after getting off the train)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.726,-107.6523&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Sun 7/20/2008 3:34 PM** (On top of the world)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.7184,-107.536&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Sun 7/20/2008 6:37 PM** (In the backwoods)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.7132,-107.5158&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Mon 7/21/2008 12:56 PM** (In the backwoods)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.7131,-107.5153&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Mon 7/21/2008 7:41 PM** (In the backwoods)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.7132,-107.5159&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Tue 7/22/2008 5:30 PM** (In the backwoods)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.7238,-107.5922&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Wed 7/23/2008 5:41 PM** (In the backwoods)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.7228,-107.6378&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Thu 7/24/2008 2:44 PM** (Back in Civilization – at Natalia’s restaurant in Silverton)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.8107,-107.6629&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Thu 7/24/2008 8:07 PM** (Back at United Campground in Durango)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=37.3203,-107.8495&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Fri 7/25/2008 5:14 PM** (In KOA campground near the Royal Gorge)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=38.4886,-105.3305&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>
- Sat 7/26/2008 3:36 PM** (in the center of the Royal Gorge Bridge!)
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=38.4611,-105.3257&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1>

Railin' Committee Assignments

T-Shirts	Sergio and Elliot
Menu and Food List	Elliot and Greg
Rafting, Panning	Daniel, Jacob and Alex
Crew Equipment	Sergio and Elliot
Budget	Michael Bush
Bus and Train	Kim
Durango Campground	Ryan Kaufman and Kevin Kaufman
Topo Maps	Ryan Kaufman and Kevin Kaufman

PRIOR SUPERTRIPS

1969	Gone Wild '69	1987	Sierra Madre Range (SMR '87)
1971	Light Pack '71 (L.P. '71)	1989	Kopka River Experience (KRE '89)
1973	Voyager Trails Trek '73 (VTT '73)	1994	Eagle Soar '94
1973	Deep Freeze '73	1997	Canadian River Trek '97 (CRT '97)
1975	I.R.S. '75	1999	Trail Climb '99 (TC '99)
1976	White Water '76	2000	MegaTrip 2000 "Kickin' in the Keys"
1979	High Country '79	2002	Roamin' Wyoming 2002
1981	Canadian Clear Water '81 (CCW '81)	2004	Oot 'n About 2004
1983	Lost Ranger Trek '83 (LRT '83)	2006	Wading to Alaska 2006 (WTA '06)
1985	Royale Expedition '85 (RE '85)	2008	Railin' the Rockies
2010	Can't wait to find out!!		

Shirt Design by *Sergio*:



Photos Not Used - but worth looking at!

A.K.A. A Photographic Journey to Durango and Back!



Pre-trip food buying at Wal-Mart; Do we have everything?



We think we've got it all



This guy wasn't with our group; he just hopped off a freight train and began to play



Breakfast at the Old Fort Market



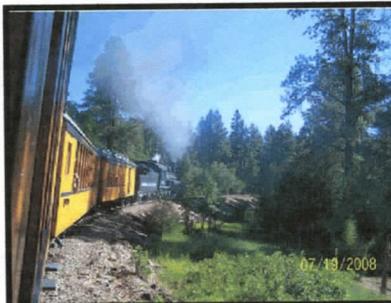
Friday Breakfast



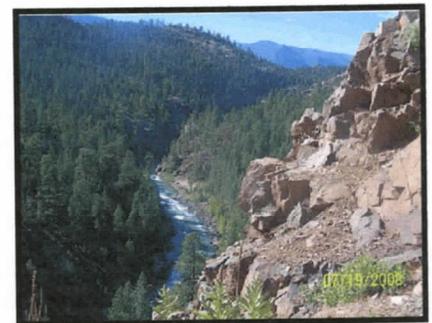
Michael and Larry share the bench



Leaving the train station



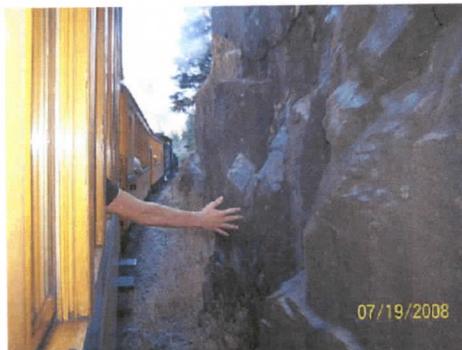
Toward the Mountains



A good view from the train



Writing a "short" note home



A disembodied hand



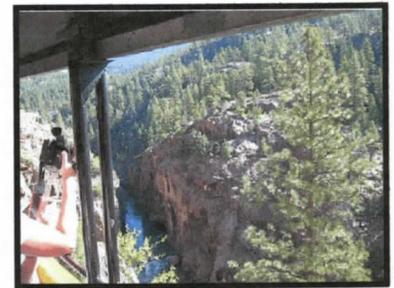
Too cool for words



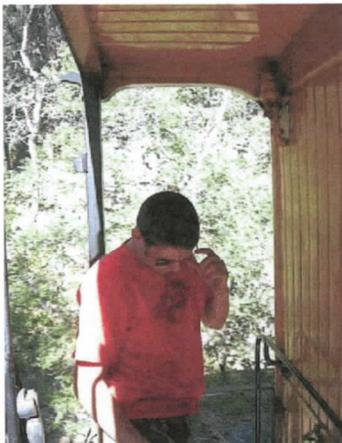
Sharing Tunes



The man with no eyes



In the Gondola car



Between cars



At the Elk Park Trailhead



Elliot packs – at the trailhead



Alex turns his back on a friend



Michael, Karl and Kim wave



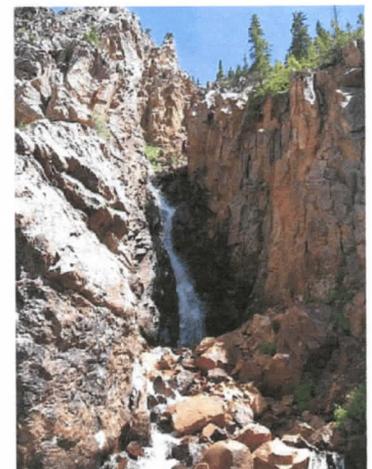
Elliot finds a Creek



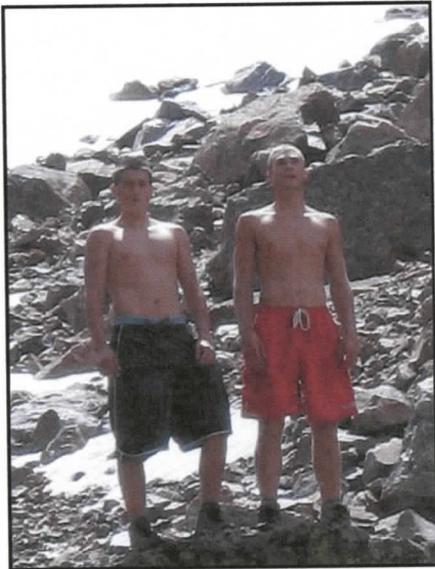
Elliot finds a flower



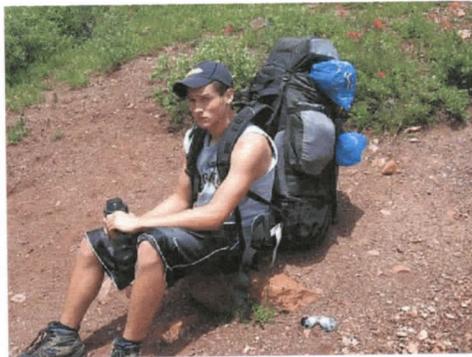
Elliot finds a friend



Water, sometimes, falls!



"Where's the beach??"



Switchbacks are not delightful



Up valley



A foot rest



Rocky Mountain high??



The Trail below



Serge surges!



Mr. Ott poses



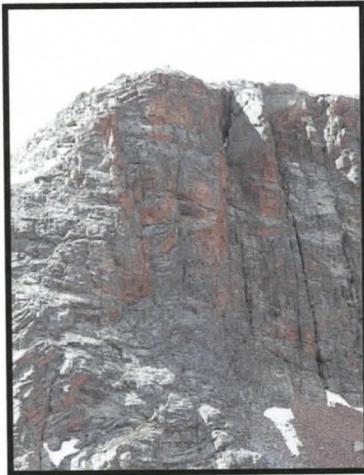
Justin pauses



The hikers scramble



Again with the SAME pose



Two guys ant size on top



Elliot cuts off Justin's body



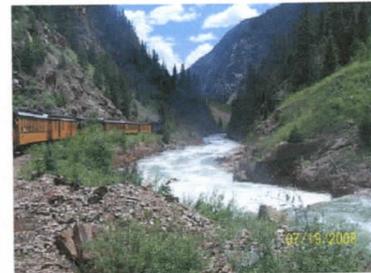
Out of the wilderness – Silverton bound



Silverton train station



Alex and Jacob, happy at lunch



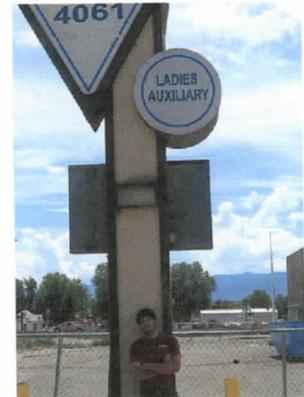
Leaving Silverton



Our camp; Greg's tent; as seen from the train



Greg DID come on the trip



Justin IS the "ladies' auxillary"!



Jacob and Michael – Cookin' dinner in the dark! . . . with headlights



Wandering minstrel serenades Kark at KOA camp



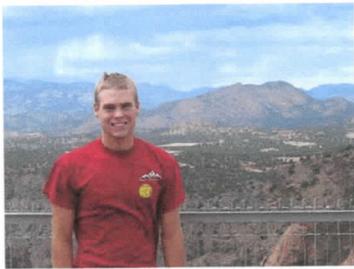
Bus is ready to leave KOA



Ready in Boat One!



Ready in Boat Two!



"Before"



"Before"



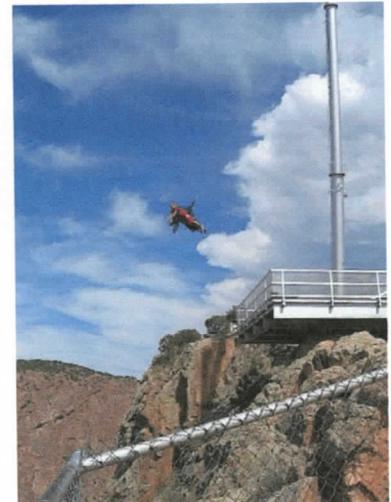
The Bungee Challenge



Not too late to turn back



Buzzards Circle!



The boys fly!



Another way to cross



Tram Cage



The End!

Railin' the Rockies – Equipment List

Plan how to divide gear with tent partner – Breaking in a pair of hiking boots should be first priority!

Personal Gear on the trail:

- Back Pack
- Sleeping Bag
- Foam Pad
- Clothes:
 - hiking boots
 - Tennis shoes (back-up pair of camp shoes)
 - 1 Pr. Long Pants (avoid 100% cotton, as they tend to absorb moisture)
 - 1 Pr. Hiking Shorts
 - Belt
 - Underwear
 - 4 Pr. white socks (consider a wool blend or other moisture-reducing blend)
 - 2 T-shirts (including Super Trip Shirt) (avoid 100% cotton, as they tend to absorb moisture)
 - Sweatshirt/ jacket
 - Hat (baseball cap style suggested)
- Poncho or Raincoat
- Small Towel
- Toilet Kit (biodegradable soap and shampoo, toothbrush and paste, contact lens cleaner if needed)
 - unscented deodorant
- Plate, bowl, cup
- Knife, fork, spoon
- Clean up Kit (SOS pad, scrubby, liquid soap)
- Repair Kit (needle, thread, safety pins)
- Water Bottles (enough for half gallon)
- First aid Kit (check for completeness)
 - Personal Meds (contact Kim Kemp if bringing any)
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen lotion
- Chapstick/Blistex
- Matches
- Compass
- Pocket or Folding Sheath Knife
- toilet Paper
- Pen and small pad
- Hard Candy or Gum
- Flashlight and Batteries
- Mosquito head net

Optional:

- Camera and Film
- Watch
- Book
- Pair of Back up eye-glasses (if needed)
- Deck of cards
- Daily Diary
- Sunglasses—come in very handy
- Binoculars
- Fishing Pole and Lures, line, hooks, etc. ?
- Fishing License

Tent Partner gear on Trail:

- Tent
- Tent Stakes
- Ground cloth
- Topo/Trail Map
- Compass
- Hot Pot glove, or two leather work gloves—they come in handy
- 1 folding Bow Saw

Crew Gear on Trail:

- Cook Gear: 3 Frying pans
- 2 medium pots
- 1 spatula
- 1 Big spoon
- Aluminum foil
- Folding Grill
- 4 water purifier pumps
- 1 small hand trowel (for latrine/fire pit digging)
- 1 Log book and Pen
- 1 bottle of water purification tablets (backup tablets in case pumps malfunction)
- ½ roll of duct tape
- 1 feet of baling wire (not much you can't fix with duct tape and baling wire!)
- 4 white gas stoves and fuel

Personal Bus Gear – If want it on the bus don't put in your hiking pack cuz you will not be able to get to it!

- Gym Bag or small school-type backpack
- Extra traveling clothes: 1 Pr. hiking shorts
- 1 Pr. underwear
- 1 Super Trip Shirt
- 3 Pr. white Sock
- Pen and Paper
- small Flashlight
- Snacks, Cookies, Candy
- Scoutlike literature
- Envelopes & Stamps (for writing home – . . . each and every day!)
- Gameboy, Chess, Deck of Cards (but don't bring it if you'll be upset if it is lost, stolen or broken!)
- Pillow
- Light Blanket

Troop gear on Bus:

- Large Cooler with Ice
- Road Maps
- 2 log books and pen in zip-lock (one log book for each crew)
- Gas and incidental Money
- Travel Food Money
- Trash Bags
- 2 Rolls of paper towels
- Cigarette lighter power inverter and portable battery pack

Keep Sleeping Bag and Tent Separated out (but make sure you pack and plastic bags you'll need to keep these in once we reach site). If you are bringing a Fishing Pole, keep that separate as well.

Railin' the Rockies -- 2008 Menu and Food List (11 people; 10 on the trail)

We'll also need 25 2-gallon ziplock bags for packing food and 15 1-gallon ziplocks

Thursday, July 17 :

Dinner Eat before boarding bus

Friday, July 18:

Breakfast: Grocery Store – Donuts and Milk (\$2)
Lunch Grocery Store – sandwiches or fried chicken (\$5)
Dinner Soft shell tacos; Tostitos Corn Chips; Salsa; Cake & /strawberries; soda
22 tortillas
5 lbs Hamburger (buy in Durango)
1 small bag lettuce (buy in Durango)
4 tomatos (buy in Durango)
2 pouches taco Seasoning
1 small bottle taco sauce
22 oz. grated cheese (buy in Durango)
1 onion (buy in Durango)
2 bags Tostitos
2 jars salsa
3 bottles (2-liter) soda (buy in Durango)
1 Angel food cake
48 oz frozen strawberries (in plastic tub) (buy in Durango)

Trail Day One – Saturday, July 19:

Breakfast: Grocery Store – Donuts and Milk (\$2)
Lunch Grocery Store – Sandwiches, chips, Little Debbie Cosmic Brownie (buy in Durango) (\$5)

Afternoon Snack: Trail Mix; peanut butter crackers

10 small tubes trail mix
Kim 10 Peanut butter and crackers packs

Dinner: Chicken Sandwiches, Scalloped potatoes, Kool-Aid, Blueberry muffins

Kim 40 oz Pouch Chicken (10 grilled sandwiches)
10 hamburger buns
10 American cheese slices (buy in Durango)
2 boxes dried scalloped potatoes (5 cups “made”)
2 boxes of muffins (or blueberry pancake) assuming 5 muffins per box
1 1/2 gallon Koolaid (enough mix to make two gallons – must be the “pre-sweetened” kind)
10 Mayo packets (“steal” from fast food restaurants)
Aluminum foil for oven (from staples)
1/2 cup oil (from staples) (in case we must make blueberry pancakes instead of muffins)

Two – Sunday, July 20:

Breakfast Oatmeal, dried fruit, Breakfast bar; Tang

Daniel 20 pouches Instant Oatmeal
10 Chocolate Breakfast Bars
60 pieces of dried fruit (6 per person) or, if Raisins, one large box
1 1/2 gallon tang

Lunch: Pita Pizzas; Trail Mix packet; Kit Kat Bars; Kool-Aid

Sergio 20 Pitas
5 tiny cans tomato Paste (tent partners will share one can)
2 packs of Spaghetti or Pizza seasoning
1 container Parmesan Cheese (save leftovers for tomorrow night spaghetti)
2 bags pepperoni (100 slices) Michael can buy alternative topping (mushrooms; stringcheese)
10 trail mix packets
10 Kit-Kat Bars
1 1/2 gallons Kool-Aid

Dinner Jambalaya; Pita; Cherry and Peach "wraps"; Kool-Aid

Karl Instant Rice (enough to make 10 cups of "made" rice) (1 cup per person)
30 oz. dehydrated pre-cooked chicken
3 carrots
2 bell peppers *(buy in Durango)*
2 packets Cajun seasoning
1 can pinto beans (Veggies)
10 Pita; 10 tortillas
2 cans pie filling
1 1/2 gallons Kool-Aid
Salt & Pepper (from staples)
Squeeze bottle Margerine (from staples)

Three – Monday, July 21:

Breakfast: Oatmeal, raisins, Breakfast bar; Tang

Jacob 20 pouches Instant Oatmeal
10 assorted Breakfast Bars
Raisins, one large box
1.5 gallons tang

Lunch: Summer Sausage & Cheese; Crackers; M&Ms; Fruit Roll-up; Kool-Aid

Michael 40 oz. Summer Sausage (4 oz per person) – Michael brings 4 oz alternate such as tuna/Peanuts
20oz. Cheese *(buy in Durango)*
4 tubes TownHouse Crackers (1/3 tube crackers per person)(approx 12 crackers each)
30oz. M&Ms (3 oz per person)
10 individual-sized Fruit Roll-ups
1.5 gallon Kool-Aid

Dinner: Spaghetti and Sausage, French Bread "pitas", Marshmallow Crepes, Grape drink

Justin 32 oz. noodles (any shape of noodles will work)
5 cups of spaghetti sauce (in pouch or plastic bottle)
2 packs of sliced pepperoni (approx 100 slices)
10 pitas
Squeeze Margarine (from staples)
2 tsp Garlic Salt
1 small box pancake mix (enough to make 20 small pancakes)
1 jar marshmallow creme
1 small can pie filling(cherry)
1.5 gallons Kool-Aid (Grape)
1/2 cup cooking oil (put with staples)

Four – Tuesday, July 22:

Breakfast Ultimate Meat eggless “stretch”, dried fruit, Tang

- Alex 5 cups of chili (Note: Daniel is packing the cans of chili)
10 servings of hash browns
1 onion (buy in Durango)
1 can diced peppers
1 small bottle ketchup
60 pieces of dried fruit (6 per person)
1.5 gallons tang
½ cup cooking oil (put with staples)

Lunch Peanut Butter and Jelly on Tortillas; Fruit Smiles; Candy Bar; Kool-Aid

- Elliot 1 small plastic jar Peanut Butter
1 small squeeze bottle jelly
10 pitas
20 individual packets Fruit Smiles
10 candy bars
1.5 gallons kool aid

Dinner Souper Rice; Cornbread; Vanilla Wafers w/ Lemon Pudding; Kool-Aid

- Justin Instant Rice (enough to make 20 cups of “made” rice) (2 cups per person)
3 pouches dehydrated pre-cooked chicken (Wal-Mart has this) (20 ish oz total)
2 bags Minestrone Soup Starter (Wal-Mart – top shelf in dried soup aisle)
1 box Cornbread Mix
1 box vanilla wafers
Lemon Pudding mix – INSTANT – (enough to make 8 cups of pudding)
2 ziplock bags for “gushing”
1.5 gallon Kool-Aid
Salt & Pepper (from staples)
Squeeze bottle Margarine (from staples)

note: For “Souper Rice”: Prepare the soup per instructions; add the chicken; return to boil; dump the rice in; stir; take off heat and cover pot with lid; let sit 10 minutes; then Serve

Five – Wednesday, July 23:

Breakfast Oatmeal, Dried Fruit, Breakfast bar; Tang

- Ryan 20 pouches Instant Oatmeal
10 assorted Breakfast Bars
60 pieces dried fruit
1.5 gallons tang

Lunch Trail Mix (chex, m&ms, goldfish, raisins); Beef Jerky; Candy Bar; Kool-Aid

- Karl 20 small tubes trail mix
One 16oz bag of JackLink’s Tender Strips Jerky (60 pieces to a bag; 6 sticks per person)
10 candy bars
1.5 gallons kool-aid

Dinner Spanish Fiesta! Fajitas (tortillas, chicken, pepper, onion, seasoning); Spanish rice; taco sauce; Fritos & Salsa; Sopapillas (honey, tortilla, marshmallows); Kool-Aid

- Elliot 30 Tortillas (20 for Fajitas; 10 for Sopapillas)
30 oz “pouch” chicken

- Instant Rice (enough to make 10 cups)
- 4 packets Fajita Seasoning (2 for the chicken; 2 for the Rice)
- 1 small can diced peppers *(Note: Michael is packing this can)*
- 1 Onion *(buy in Durango)*
- 1 can refried beans (for Veggies)
- 1 small bottle taco sauce
- 1 large bag Fritos
- 1 jar Salsa (plastic jar, if possible)
- 1 plastic bottle honey
- 1 jar marshmallow Fluff
- 1.5 gallons kool aid *(Note: Michael is packing this can of Kool Aid)*

Six – Thursday, July 24:

Breakfast Pancakes; Bacon (or beef); Banana Chips; Tang

- Pancake mix (enough to make 30 small pancakes)
- Sergio 1 bottle syrup
- Squeeze Margarine (from Staples)
- 36 slices precooked bacon (4 strips per person)
- Michael may bring an alternative (peanut butter cracker packet?)
- 5 cups Banana Chips (1/2 cup per person)
- 1.5 gallons Tang
- 1/2 cup cooking oil (put with staples)

Lunch Ramen Noodles; Trail Mix; Candy Bar, Kool-Aid

- 10 Ramen packs
- Alex 10 small tubes trail mix
- 10 candy bars
- 1.5 gallons kool-aid

Contingency Thursday Dinner: Grilled Cheese Sandwiches; Dried Fruit; Kool-Aid

- 10 tortillas
- Jacob 10 slices American cheese *(buy in Durango)*
- 60 pieces dried fruit
- No drink mix for this meal – use left-overs or nothing

Contingency Friday Break & Lunch:

- 10 packets Oatmeal
- Ryan 10 PB Crackers
- 10 tubes Trail Mix
- 10 candy bars

Staples: Salt Pepper, cooking oil, tinfoil, margarine

?? (sorry; I did not record who will pack the staples)

Friday, July 25 (Leisure Day!):

- Breakfast: Grocery Store – Donuts and Milk (\$2)
- Lunch Grocery Store – sandwiches or fried chicken (\$5)
- Dinner Grocery Store – sandwiches or fried chicken (\$5)

Saturday, July 26 (white-water raft and travel home day):

Breakfast: Grocery Store – Donuts and Milk (\$2)
Lunch Grocery Store – sandwiches or fried chicken (\$5)
Dinner Sit-Down Dinner Canon City/Colo Springs (\$16)

Sunday, July 27 (travel day)

Breakfast: Grocery Store – Donuts and Milk (\$2)
Lunch Fast Food (\$5)

Equipment List: 2 medium pots; 3 large Fry-pans (or griddle and one large fry pan), spatula, big spoon, grill (if we can have fires)

Equipment Assignments:

Medium Pot	Michael
Medium Pot	Daniel
Fry Pan #1	Alex
Fry Pan #2	Karl
Spatula & Big Spoon	Sergio
Water Pump #1	Kim
Water Pump #2	Alex
Water Pump #3	Ryan
Water Pump #4	Elliot
Hand trowel/shovel	Elliot
Stove #1	Sergio
Stove #2	Kim
Stove #3	Karl
Gas #1	Michael
Gas #2	Michael
Gas #3	Jacob
Gas #4	Jacob
Gas #5	Ryan
Gas #6	Daniel
Gas #7	Sergio
Thermo-Nuclear Device	Kim

Some Selected E-mails by and between the folks back home (and one guy alone in a tent) (read this from bottom email to top)

From: Scott, Gregory J.
Sent: Fri 7/25/2008 5:57 PM
To: all parents

I somehow "feel" the guys are now at the KOA campground at the turn-off to Royal Gorge. [. . . if you move the cursor to look about 3 miles due south, you can see the Gorge (easiest to find using "terrain")]

I also somehow "feel" that the guys right now are playing volleyball.

Tomorrow's schedule is "up at 6:30"; back to Canon City to River Masters; get shuttled up the Arkansas by bus to put-in; and then a four-hour whitewater trip through the gorge. Then back on the road towards civilization.

Greg Scott

From: Scott, Gregory J.
Sent: Thu 7/24/2008 9:59 PM
To: Kaufman, Kevin L.

HEY! That was just me waiving at the train as it went by each morning!
all the boys . . . and Kim, are out of the backwoods! they've joined me at base camp.
all seem to have retained all necessary body parts and got along great -- so all say.

tomorrow we head to the royal gorge.

wish you and ryan were here.

Greg Scott

From: Kaufman, Kevin L.
Sent: Thu 7/24/2008 3:00 PM
To: Scott, Gregory J.

FYI- I just found on Google earth that between where your campground is and where they are at Elk Park it shows two different bigfoot sightings marked on map where he was seen from the train by many passengers and train workers. So keep an eye and a camera out.

Sent: Thu 7/24/2008 7:27 AM
To: MissTim129@aol.com

Ha!

You KNOW those boys are having the time of their lives!

And surely Jacob has sent you a dozen letters home already on the fanciest of Hallmark paper!

Today is a cool day for Jacob and company -- it's not everyday that you actually get to FLAG DOWN a train in order to hitch a ride! Don't even TRY to tell me that doesn't sound "way" cool!

And, of course, I'd NEVER call you a rookie Mom! . . . might THINK it, though!

And, as to whether you'll get a phone call from your son -- . . . say what??

Actually, I'll bet you do get a call -- but you must remember that back in MY day, there were no such things as cell phones and instant communication! Parents just showed up when the bus was due back from all points exotic and waited to see if their boy looked just the same as when they loaded him onto the bus 10 days before!

The "rule" was, and still is, "on a Super Trip, no news is good news"!

Well, I think I just might go now and try to catch a train this morning -- maybe warn the Engineer to watch out for train robbers and rustlers who might try to flag down the train!

Greg Scott

From: MissTim129@aol.com [mailto:MissTim129@aol.com]

Sent: Wed 7/23/2008 10:49 PM

To: Scott, Gregory J.

why you playing with my emotions homey? Please let my baby call me when they get back to civilization. Don't tell him that is momma is a little excited about him coming home. But I am excited about them all coming home and hoping that they have a trip of a lifetime. Make sure he gets a cheeseburger or two when he gets back. Thanks for the updates. They mean soooo much. Becky called me a sorry rookie mother. I know you don't think so? Holla back.

Sonja Ellis

From: Scott, Gregory J.

Sent: Wed 7/23/2008 10:31 PM

To: all parents

called the railroad an hour or so ago to give 'em the "heads up" on the guys coming out at Elk Park instead of Needleton. Very nice lady at the station said: "that's not a problem; we won't leave anybody out in the wilderness -- we'll always make room!"

Of course it's always possible that Kim has just been playing with us and handed the magic satellite machine to some Outward Bound group with instructions to "hit the button" every now and then!

Greg Scott

From: Scott, Gregory J.

Sent: Wed 7/23/2008 6:20 PM

To: all parents

LOVE the satellite! Missed my mid-day "fix" today!

These guys are playing it smart! They've moved to within a half mile of the trailhead. So they aren't taking any chances on missing the train in the morning (it arrives at 11:00 ish).

Moving from last night's campsite would have been a very easy and short hike and they doubtless enjoyed an almost full layover day today. (o.k., they hiked a bit, so it isn't technically a layover!)

Clicking on "terrain" shows you just how close they really are to the river -- and the train runs right along the river.

The interesting question will be if there is room on the train for em tomorrow morning -- their tickets were for the "third" train that would have picked em up tomorrow afternoon at Needleton . But the third train doesn't

stop at Elk park -- only the First train does. But don't worry -- Kim spoke with the train folks before going into the backwoods and the train folks said they do their best to board folks that need to be boarded even if glitches like this occur.

Looks like they'll be back in civilization tomorrow by Noon (ish).

Greg Scott

From: Greg Scott

Sent: Tue 7/22/2008 8:26 PM

To: misstim129@aol.com;

Sonja:

It'll be good to get the boys out of the woods -- although they are, without a doubt -- having a great time.

Did you see those crazy switchback paths that they had to hike up and down??

Rainstorm swept through the valley this evening, but is pretty much stopped now. I know they'll be happy they'd already set up camp for the evening. (they are now in the same valley that I'm in -- but they are about 40 miles upstream!

. . . just two more days 'til they're out of the woods!

Greg Scott

From: MissTim129@aol.com [<mailto:MissTim129@aol.com>]

Sent: Tue 7/22/2008 8:18 PM

To: Scott, Gregory J.

Greg.....How is it going? Can you see my son? You can only guess who this is. Yes.... this is Sonja Ellis. I have learned so much by about google earth. I have been following your emails with their locations. Is he hungry? Is he tired? Is he surviving? I am..... barely:(However, the grocery bill has been cut in half and I have found time to clean his room the way it should be cleaned and Brianna and Brittani have no one to argue with so it's very quiet and I miss my baby!!!! boo hoo boo hoo. Am I pitiful or what? Keep me informed of the haps. Hope all is well with you and the best Boy Scout Troop in the world. 707. Just keepin it real. Call me if you get desperate. I'm alright, I promise.

Sonja Ellis

ps: don't share this with Jacob, he would be so embarrassed. Not surprised, just embarrassed.

From: Scott, Gregory J.

Sent: Tue 7/22/2008 6:30 PM

To: all parents

o.k., Mary, so I got it wrong! Looks like I had 'em further North on the map than they really were. Highland Mary will have to wait for another trip!

I'd say now that they had lunch on top of the same pass they first came up out of Elk Creek basin.

I may be wrong, . . . but I'm never uncertain -- that they are now headed back down Elk Creek along teh Colorado trail -- same trail they climbed on Saturday. I show em almost exactly halfway between the pass and Elk Park. North and just a little to the west of "peak two13475". about 3 miles from the elk park trailhead. anybody else got em figured for somewhere else?

I suppose it is possible they'll catch the train out tomorrow -- but the only way I can see that happening is if

they left more than the "contingency" food on the bus! Or, they've discovered GOLD and are hurrying out of the mountains to file their claims!

More likely, they'll set up a base camp and enjoy a layover day tomorrow.

Greg Scott

From: Scott, Gregory J.

Sent: Tue 7/22/2008 12:09 PM

To: all parents

well, that was a fun check-in!

seems clear that they got turned back from hunchback pass yesterday -- most likely due to weather (we got a heck of a rainstorm down here in Durango sunday night and monday morn). And thus the explanation for why they camped Sun and Mon night in same place on this side of the pass.

today's lunch check-in shows em heading back North to do a northern loop. cool decision! and all part of the plan. well, the backup plan, anyway!

impressive early morning mileage, you must admit! These guys are moving well.

I'm betting that they'll still come out on Thursday -- and catch the train back at Elk Park. But they do have the flexibility to stick it out an extra day and come back on "contingency day" on Friday. . . . of course, I found most of the contingency Friday food left on the bus -- on purpose I think -- so I'm still betting on Thursday!

Way cool to zoom in and see the major switchbacks they're dealing with.

Greg Scott

p.s. Mary, seems to me that they are heading for the "highland Mary lakes"! You must feel honored.

7-15-2008. Email from Greg to Group:

Gentlesirs!

attached is my best recollection of your guys' decision about "who is carrying what"!

The attachment shows the most current "menu and food list"; including an equipment list on the last page.

On the last page, is a list of who is carrying what piece of "extra crew gear." For example, the list shows that Alex will be bringing and packing a frypan, and will also be packing a water pump.

Kim, of course, will be carrying the "same old; same old" thermo-nuclear device, . . . and a water pump and stove!

If you find any errors -- the time to get that straightened out is BEFORE we leave on Thursday! So, please take a look! And let Kim and Elliot (and me, if you don't mind too much) know of any errors.

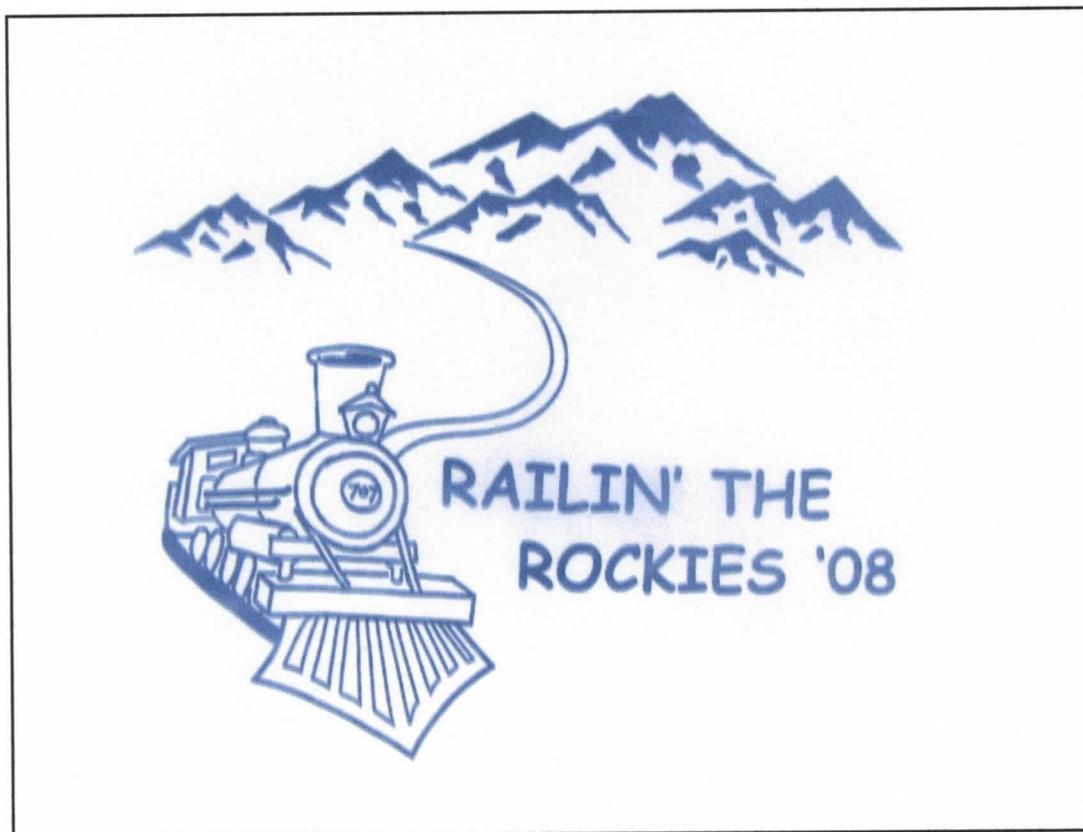
And, on Thursday, don't forget to bring all food items you've been allotted, and all pieces of equipment.

Did I hear correctly that we'll meet at my house on Thursday? At 5:45 p.m.?

. . . too bad that we aren't going to have any fun at all on this trip!

Greg Scott

LOG ENTRIES – HAND-WRITTEN



Day 1

7/17/08

Today had to be the slowest most painful part of the trip we arrived at the Big Homies "Greg Scott" house at about 5:30. We put all of our gear on the bus got our T-shirts and by 6:00 we said our goodbyes to our families and got on the highway. On the bus we just chilled like villains till about 7:30 when we stopped and stretched ourselves after our little stretch we hightailed through the rest of the show me state and into the flattest most boring terrain a human could possibly look at "Kansas".

Just
[Signature]

Day II
7/18/68

Today started off where yesterday ended, in the bus trying to sleep with little success. The wind started to get colder, and with the windows open made it very uncomfortable, so I stayed up most of the night. The sunrise was cool though. For breakfast we had a very nutritious assortment of ~~hilly~~ buns and powdered doughnuts. After about 3 hours travel we arrived in ~~Durango~~ we checked out the capsule that we were staying out at for the night. After work we got a bite to eat at Wendy's (Delicious) and saw the Park Knight which was awesome. That wraps things up for today, later.

Alex Buea - Overton

Day III 7/19/08

- Got on train in Durango
train left at 8am
- arrived at Elk Park at 12:30 +
started hiking
- Not much happened after 5 miles
we are now in our tents making
pre-sleep small talk at 7pm
- there has been a light rain
- Justin Rutter

Day 4 7-28-08

Today we woke up at 5:40 to a cold, partly cloudy sky. We started putting our tents away while a few put water on to boil for a breakfast of instant oatmeal. ~~None of us~~ Then we hiked. Not much happened till we got near the continental divide. Then it got vertical. From here to the divide was some intense hiking. Justin made it first. Then I made it second. I took a nap & then woke up to Elliot & Sergio coming up the path. We ate a lunch of pita-pizza, but before all of us finished, Mr. Potemkin gave the order to move out because of possible lightning. As soon as we got down from the divide, it started to rain. Then it started to hail. Some guys didn't put rain gear on and complained the whole way. When we did finally find a spot, we cooked some umbalio. Then we made the decision to turn around. After we sat in the tent, Karl told us we got to sleep in. So were happy.

- Michael Bush

P.S.

Elliot fell on his face.

Day 5

7-21-08

Today was by far the best day on the trail. It started off with some much needed sleeping in. Elliot and I rolled out of bed at around 10.00 AM. Upon waking up we absolutely crushed some breakfast. We hooked it up fresh with some hash browns and chillie. After crushing our breakfast we thought about what we should do with our layover day. Elliot and I, being the complete savages that we are had already pondered this the night before. We both looked at a nearby peak, and pointed. We decided to go on a little day hike to the peak of one of the beautiful mountains that make up the Rockies. The crew willing to tackle such an obstacle consisted of Justin Putter, The Machine — who decided to take his pack and carried our lunch and some water. In addition Micheal Bush the... well Micheal Bush, and of course Elliot and I the dynamic duo. We set out at around noone. Four of the men accepted the challenge, and the other four stayed behind. Verry soon into our endeavor we realized that we could make it much further then we had originally planned. we climbed to the summit of the nearby mountain and stoped to eat lunch. After looking

Day 5

7-21-08

back at our now tiny campsite, we pressed on. We hiked along the ridge and came across a small pond. Here we commenced our joyce day by stopping for a photo opp and skipping some rocks. When we had our fill we again pressed on. As we savage slapped the mountain side we realized how bad it would have sucked to stay at camp. (sorry Kim, Karl, Jacob + Alex) When we finally made it back to the ~~camp~~ camp we ~~we~~ found out that it had only taken us three hours to conquer our day quest. We scalded shear rock faces, crossed mountain streames, ~~we~~ climbed massive snow banks, bounded from massive boulder to massive boulder. And not to mention saw amazing scenery that only Colorado could provide. On top of our B. A. day our dinner consisted of yes my favorit, Spanish Fiesta. After getting that delicious combination of chicken, rice, and all that spice ALL UP IN OUR BONES, we kicked it by the campfire and chilled before bed. Yah it was one hell of a day.



Sergio Galarza

7-22-08

Day 6

Today we woke up early to oatmeal, and we rolled out to crush the continental divide. Kim did much better today, and we made good time coming down the other side. Sergio and myself decided to crush a mountain on the side while we waited for everyone to show up. We made it back down in ~~more~~^{no} time. We had a good lunch of summer sausage, crackers, fruit pull-ups and limited eaten Indiana Jones M&Ms. We then hiked down to where we ~~was~~ camped our first night on the trail. We set up camp and took a bath in the stream by our tents. Justin made a good dinner of ~~spaghetti~~ spaghetti and sauce with crepes. We dominated that, threw stuff at Michael and now we are getting ready for bed. There was no significant rain today, which makes the whole day a lot better. Keep it real wastav!

ELLIOTT

7-23

Day 7

We started the day with the best breakfast yet, of pancakes and bacon. Justin decides to wake up before anyone else and make sure that we ate well so that he could prove how much of a man he was. After we finished eating, he decided to take all of the water bottles and pump them by himself while the rest of us cleaned up and got ready. Justin was nowhere to be found. Sergio and Elliot found him about 5 minutes later and he was about done pumping. Once Justin was finally all packed we set out for our day of hiking. We stopped for a lunch of peanut butter & jelly sandwiches a couple of hours later. We decided that we should stop and find a campsite where we first pumped water. A little before we got there, our daily run came down. Upon arriving, there was not enough room for all of us to pitch. Kim and "the machine" searched backwards and forwards for a better site. Justin managed to find me a couple of yards back (about 1/4 mile). After much debate about whether to camp nearby, Justin and I finally set enough water to make for delicious supper at super nice Antler-Glacier and getting everything put away we hear that it is getting close to 7, and that means that it is bedtime.

Karl

DAY 8 - THURSDAY - 7/24

Today we woke up to a beautiful, sunny mountain morning. We camped in a little valley and all the tents are wet, but at least we got to sleep a little longer because the hike to the train is so short. We ate our oatmeal, packed up, and hit the trail. ~~When~~ When we arrived at the trail-head, Elliott signed us out and we made our way to the train tracks. It was 11:10, just in time to flag the 11:15 train to Silverton. I thought that the sound of the train whistle (one long and three shorts means the train is stopping) was ~~so~~ wonderful. The conductor told us we could ride to Silverton and he would make sure we got on the right train back. Our packs were loaded and we boarded. Once the train was underway, the conductor asked if we were the Boy Scouts that the man two cars ~~back~~ back was waiting for. There was Shep, on the train to meet us!

We were scheduled to have Ramon noodles for lunch but everyone was so tired of backpacking cooking that we went to NATALIA'S buffet ~~at~~ ^{SILVERTON}. Salad bar & meat & potatoes & veggies. We ate & ate & ate. After our money-man (JACOB) paid the bill we went to catch the train back to Durango. The train ride was spectacular and we waved goodbye to "our" trail through the SAN

DAY 8 - continued

JUAN NATIONAL FOREST. We had hiked for miles and days, crossing the Continental Divide twice, living on nothing but what we had packed in on foot. As I waved goodbye I realized how proud I was of these seven Scouts.

We chained our packs from the tree ~~when~~ we were in Durango and walked to the bus. Once on the bus we realized we were parked in by other vehicles. "Never fear" said the master driver Greg, as he turned the wheels once and took that bus between cars where it would have been a challenge for two people to walk side by side.

Back at the campground we took all our leftovers (RICE, RAMEN, BEANS, et.al.) and Karl & Justin volunteered to make a pot of SOUPER-RICE (why is it called SOUPER when it is not soupy?) We ate, showered, did some laundry and went to bed, ready to attack whatever the next day would bring.

Tom Pittman

Today was pretty cool we woke up and we went rafting at the royal gorge during the rafting trip we went under the royal gorge bridge which is the highest suspension bridge in the world. After we got back from rafting we got some lunch and headed for the royal gorges bridge. Once we got to the bridge there were lots of different things to do other than just walking. On the bridge there was food, gift shops, wild life park and a sky coaster which is a swing that lifts you up look into the air and you pull a rip cord that drops you and launches you forward and gives you a view over the 1,500 drop over the gorge. Elliot, Sergio and I went on the swing Sergio got to pull the rip cord after winning over Elliot in rock paper scissors that was the the best way to end our trip.

Jacob Ellis

Jacob Ellis



RAILIN' THE
ROCKIES '08