

Extra! Extra!—Colorado Reunion

Fall 2009

There is Room at the Inn By Kathy Nicolls

The Colorado Nicolls want to thank all the Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida and New York Cousins for joining us out west this summer. When we weren't trying to injure our guests, (Good thing that Karen is in foreclosures and not liability!) we trust

everyone was having a good time. We had so many good times seeing everyone, but the highlight, of course, was Hillary and Jonathan's engagement. We are now taking reservations for the big April event. Prime rooms are still available,

including the highly sought after stable suite. With the Christmas season upon us, you never know who will need it! Book early, Book often! Rumor has it flat Cheri will be making another appearance...who knows, maybe even 3-D Cheri!



Hillary and Jonathan announced their engagement during the Colorado Reunion

Favorite Memories from Colorado

By Bob Nicolls

From the days of the 60's camping, among my favorite times are the simple "giant" fires with a proper fire ring and unlimited wood. During the summer I had Danny and some of his friends doing landscaping projects for several weeks at the house. Trimming trees and cutting up deadfall were high on the priority list as I knew we would need a huge pile of wood to satisfy the genetic need by the Nicolls clan for "giant" fires during the reunion.

Sure enough, once the week started we had fires most every night. A simple fire with peanuts is my style, but occasionally you get energetic females who insist that s'mores must be made. Probably this is due to a blatant need to have chocolate in some form.

In deference to safety, there were two hoses, (which did not have to be used) in case things got out of control. In any case, no one was burned, we had giant fires and there is still plenty of wood left.

Bill and Patty wish to thank Bob and Kathy for their gracious generosity and hospitality in hosting what became one of the best vacations we ever experienced. Every day brought forth a new highlight to remember for years to come. Best of all, it allowed so many of us to do some extended connecting and bonding that just isn't possible in the brief time we have at Thanksgiving. Here are just a few of the multitude of memories we will cherish.

- Eating incredible peanut butter fudge
- Being 14,000 ft. above sea level on Mt. Antero
- Stargazing and marveling over the mountain silhouettes in the moonlight
- Exploding cans of corn in the campfire
- Finding creative ways to have Cheri enjoy our adventures in absentia
- Sweating in the hot springs
- Sitting in with the Lazy Aliens wearing the do-rag Jim gave me
- Riding my mule over the back country, through the sage brush
- Watching the most athletic and accomplished group among us tipping over their raft
- The double rainbow at Crested Butte
- The bounteous food buffets at Casa Nicolls
- The harrowing, kidney-rattling 4WD trips up Mt Taylor and Antero averaging about 2 mph
- Hillary's engagement to Jonathan

The odd thing is that this was supposed to be a Rock'n Roll Summit and we never got around to discussing it. Just too busy enjoying the company and the activities. Three cheers to the hosts!

Favorite Memories Continued

Cheri Lewis:

- My favorite memory from the CO Reunion trip is riding back across the country on the Hog with Gayle and Jim. I didn't know they made three-seater Harleys!

Gracie Elder:

- Aunt Kathy along with Hotsie & Rosie (their dogs) helped me get over my terrible fear of dogs.
- Being with a lot of family
- Going to the little kids' hideout with Rosie and Rosie barking at the horse.
- Rafting & looking at the pictures after



Max Elder:

- Being with my cousins
- Rafting trip - our raft tipped over and everyone fell out.
- The evening bonfire pit antics w/ my cousins - blowing up the can of corn
- Danny's truck rides in the mountains - off road rides with Danny and Uncle Bob

Jack Elder:

- The evening bonfire pit antics w/ my cousins - blowing up the can of corn with ashes flying everywhere & the tomatoes juice about midnight.
- Off road Jeep rides with Uncle Bob and Danny's truck rides off road.
- After off roading with Danny, they came back to the house to get ready to go up to the mountains & Bobby tells Danny that he popped a tire. So they had to change the tire, which took forever. The changing of the tire was very entertaining

Judy Elder:

- Having family together again and laughing, laughing and laughing and telling stories and sharing great memories
- Getting the cousins on facebook
- Dancing with Marty to Bob's music- like when we were kids.
- Off road trips and Marty kissing the ground at the top of the mountain.

Pattye Ann Nicolls:

The night we had the whole house to ourselves! We were the first ones there...found the key and had the whole place to explore. We checked out every nook and cranny, swam in the pool, bounced on all the beds, and raided the fridge! We sat out on the "bunkroom" porch and watched the moon over the mountains,

then sat in the courtyard as a sudden shower came up...listened to the rain come down on the roof over our heads. We had been up for 23 hours at that point! We were definitely in another world...lack of sleep may have had something to do with it!

Greg Bundy:

- Standing on the peak of Mt. Antero (14,269 ft.) with Bob, Jonathan, Joel, Max, and Jack.



Joshua Bundy:

- Being with cousins.
- Swimming in the swimming pool.
- Playing games in the basement.
- Playing with Rosie and Hotsie (the dogs).

Jacob Bundy:

- Horseback riding
- The swimming pool
- Their chess board
- The big dinner when all the friends came.



Marty Bundy:

- The road trip out on I-70! Cheering as we entered every new state...Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and finally Colorado! Passing sign after sign that advertised "The World's Largest Prairie Dog" and "The 5-Legged Steer". Saying, "Now ya don't see that in Ohio!"
- Watching the changing colors on the mountains as the sun rose and set.
- Discussing the cans of corn which exploded in the fire.
- Eating Kathy's tortellini soup!
- Celebrating Hillary and Jonathan's engagement.
- Learning that "rocks are our friends" while 4 wheeling up Mt. Antero.
- Finding wild strawberries and wild flowers during our hike on the Monarch ski slopes.
- Spending time with my nieces and nephews!
- Eating Judy's famous Lord and Taylor Brownies!
- Hearing one of the in-laws say, "Gee, everyone is so well behaved at Uncle Don's."
- Listening to "Sweet Home Alabama" on the way home from Crested Butte and singing "Sweet Home Colorado", then seeing a complete double rainbow in the sky.
- Hearing the underground song, "Build Me Up Buttercup", while shopping with Judy in an upscale jewelry shop in Salida. Amazed to hear the little ditty I said, "There's that song!" Judy said, "Oh, it's just my ring tone."
- And my very favorite memory is dancing to songs (from "The List") in the living room with Judy, Kathy, and my cousins.