

Summer Vacation

July 2-17, 2004

Tom Sawyer Days Festival

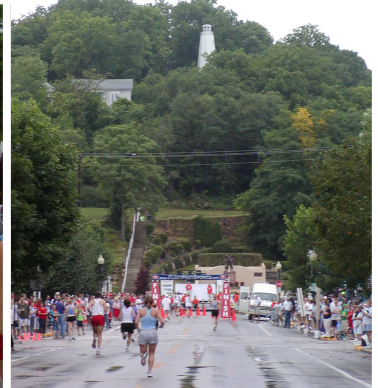
Hannibal, MO



Mark Twain's boyhood home.



Tom ran in a 10K run: the Hannibal Cannibal.



Mud Volleyball was a big event of the weekend. There were 60-70 teams playing in a double elimination tournament.



It rained off & on the entire day and was raining really hard during most of the parade. The highschool band uniforms were Tom & Becky outfits. The parade ended with someone riding a big horn steer.



Tom Sawyer Days Festival

Hannibal, MO

Back seat driving contest was interesting. The driver of the wheelbarrow was blindfolded, and the rider was providing directions through the obstacle course.

Fence painting contest was a race. It was judged based on speed, accuracy & costume. The boys were splattered with paint when they were through.



The view of downtown from Lover's Leap was nice.



We went on a one hour riverboat cruise.

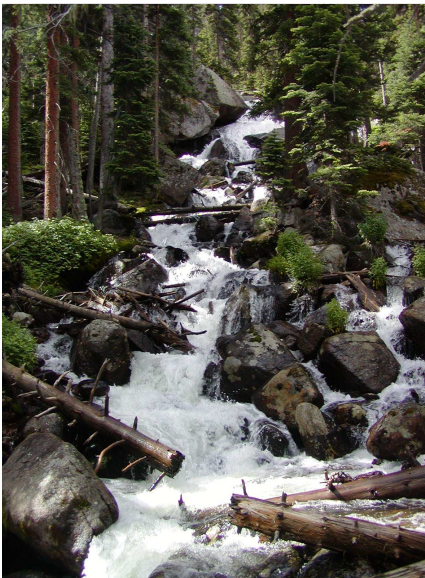
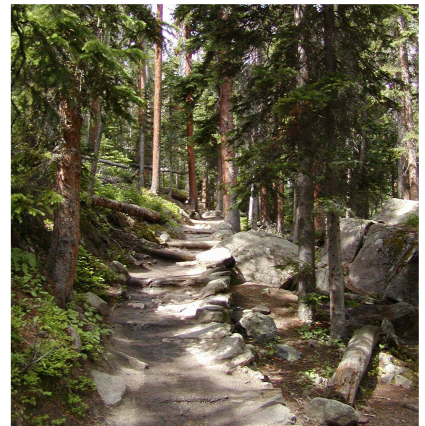


Rocky Mountain National Park

Estes Park & Meeker Estates, CO



We hiked in the Wild Basin Area, Bear Lake area, and Twin Sisters. There were wonderful views everywhere we went.



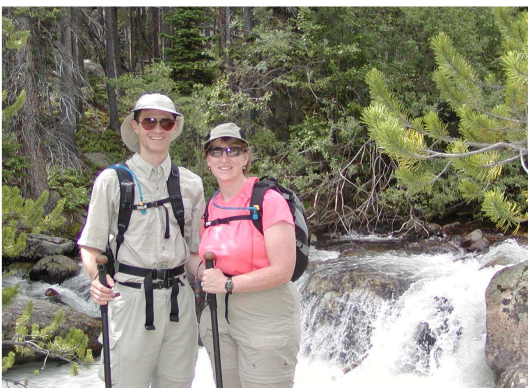
Calypso Cascades



Alberta Falls



Chasm Falls (on the old Fall River Rd.)



Tom & Julie on Ouzel Falls Trail



We stayed at a P.E.O. Bed & Breakfast in Meeker's Estates.

Rocky Mountain National Park

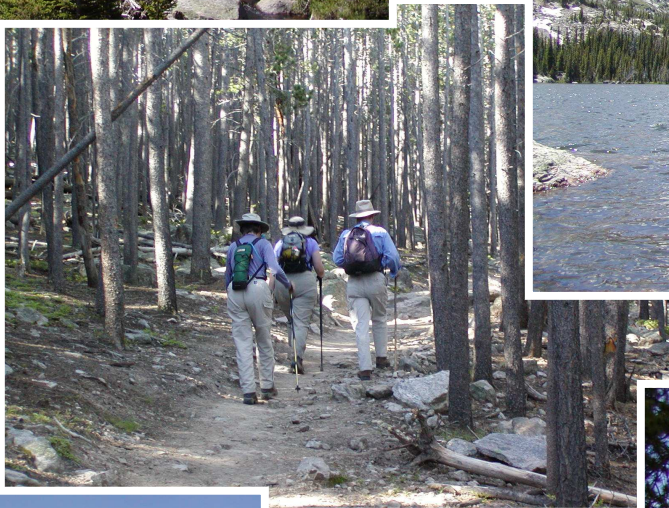
Estes Park & Meeker Estates, CO

Mills Pond



Tom & Julie at the top of the trail from the Alpine Visitor's center.

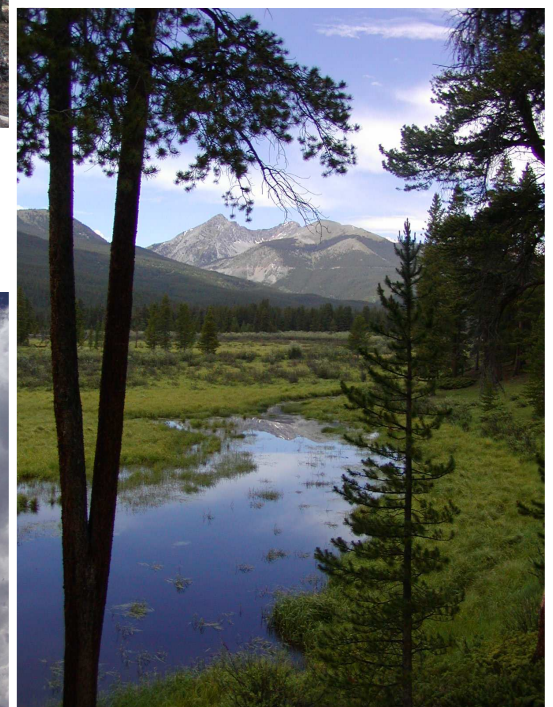
Hiking up Twin Sisters with Andree & Dave (our B&B hosts).



Tom & Julie at the top of Twin Sisters. Long's Peak in the background



Tom taking a swim in the Loch



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Mount Elbert

- State High Point #3-

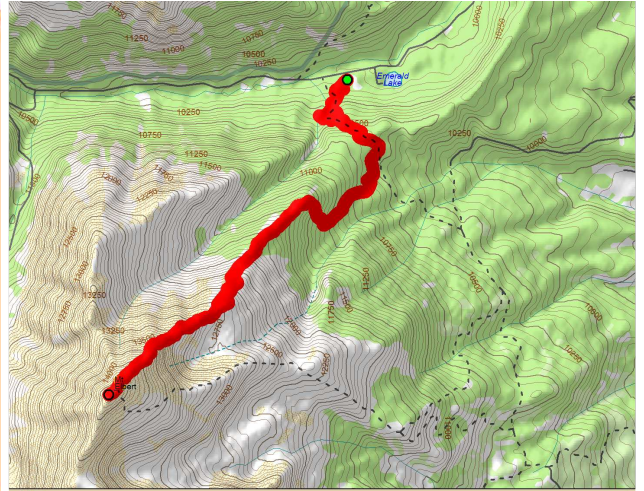
07/12/2004

Colorado

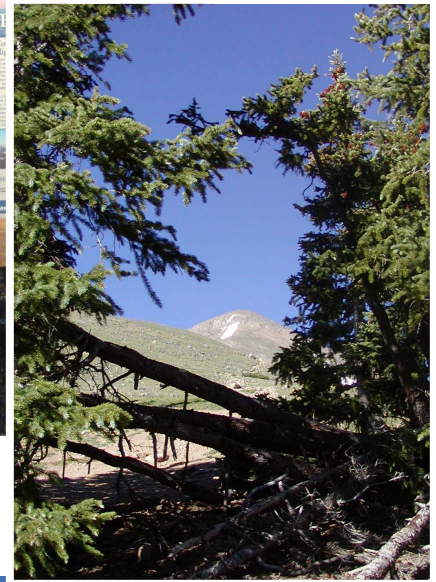
Elevation: 14,433 feet

Elevation gain: 4,550 feet

Hiking Distance: 9+ miles



The trail was a pretty steady climb all the way up. It followed the ridge line most once we left the trees. Lots of loose gravel on most of the trail.



Mount Elbert

- State High Point #3 -

07/12/2004

Colorado

Elevation: 14,433 feet

Elevation gain: 4,550 feet

Hiking Distance: 9+ miles

The trail went through some snow right before the summit.



Ptarmigan – a bird we saw just before the summit.



Views from the summit – mountains in every direction.

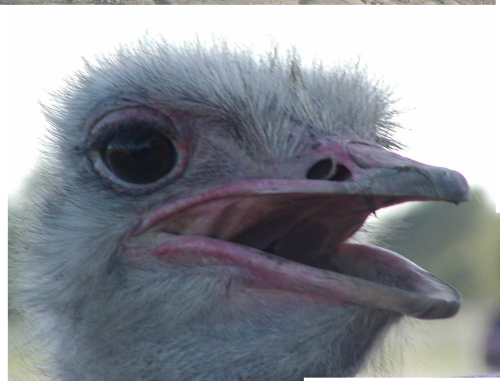
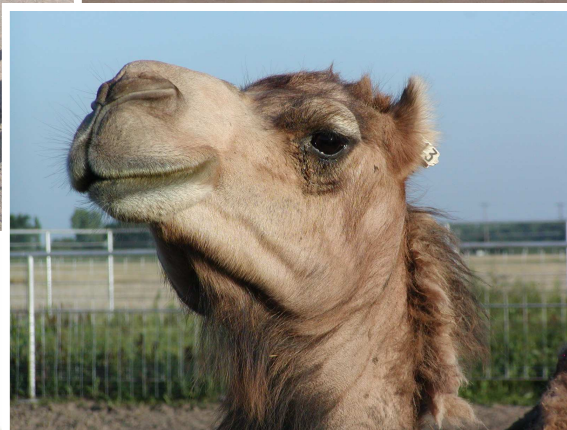


5.5 hours up and 3.5 hours down

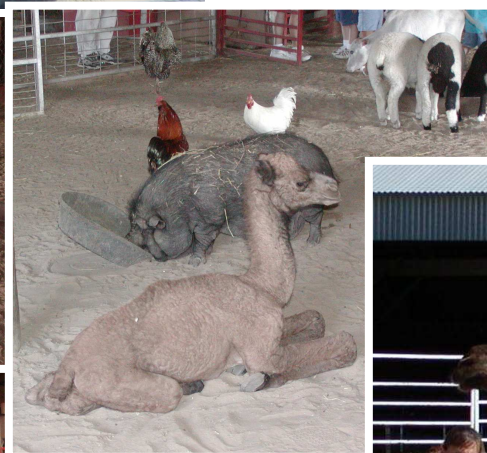


Hedrick's Exotic Animal Farm

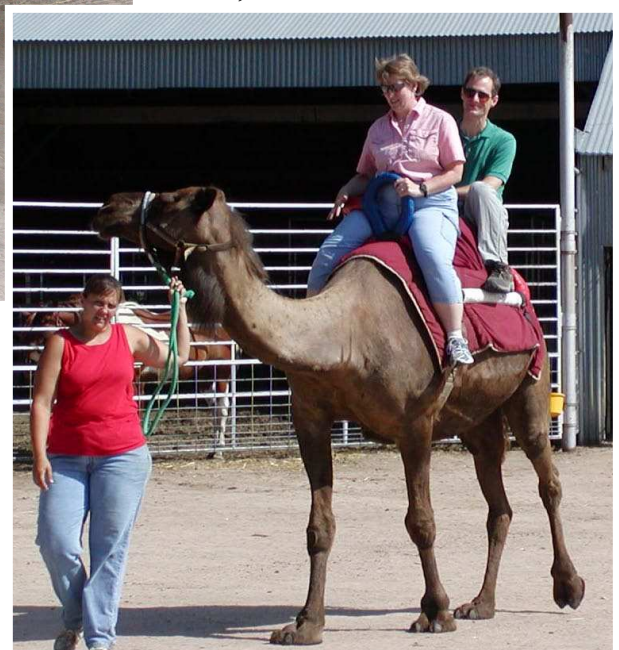
Nickerson, KS



At Hedrick's Bed and Breakfast, we pet many animals including the kangaroos and a 4 day old camel. We also bottle fed some of the babies.

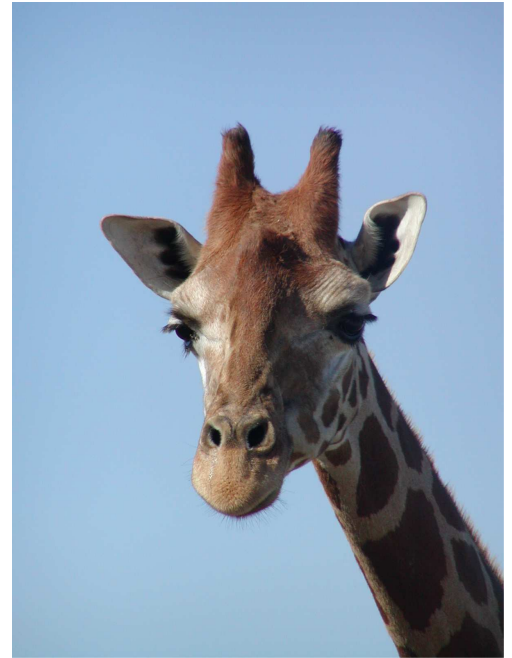


Then we went for a ride on Fred, the camel.



Hedrick's Exotic Animal Farm

Nickerson, KS



The first night we fed the giraffes some grass. The next morning we 'kissed' them. (Put a piece of sweet potato in our mouth & they wrapped their tongue around it.)



Mount Sunflower

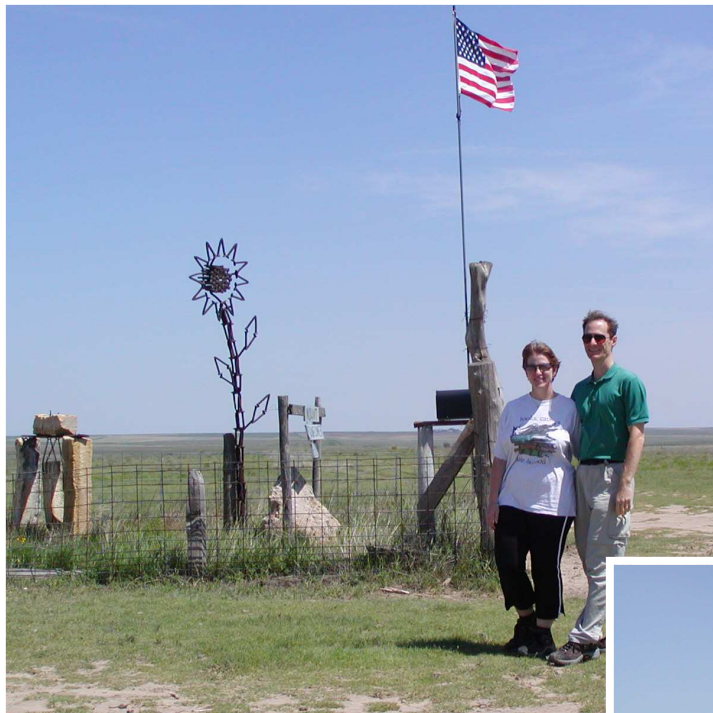
- State High Point #2 - 07/05/2004

Kansas

Elevation: 4,039 feet

Elevation gain: 0 feet

Hiking Distance: none



The summit could be seen from the turn off – look closely.

View from the summit.



Taum Sauk Mountain
 - State High Point #4-
 07/16/2004
Missouri
 Elevation: 1,772 feet
 Elevation gain: negligible
 Hiking Distance: 0.5 miles



It was raining the day we went to Taum Sauk Mountain, but we were still able to make the 1/2 mile walk.



View of the trail from the 'summit'