



The Eagle's View

Southwest Semester 2007

In The Beginning

I remember when my mom told me that I was going to SOAR for a semester. For this being the third time now, that I've been sent away I was not surprised that she would do this right before I turned 18 yrs old. I've been to boarding school in Arizona when I was 12 and to a boot camp in Canada when I was 16 years old. I was nervous that I was getting sent away to a really tough program again. After speaking with Jon Bressler it relieved a lot of fears that I had.

The day I left Santa Barbara I was really sad to



Kendrick at Boysen Lake

leave all my friends and family, but I was also excited. I feel that I have had a wonderful opportunity to experience life in different ways and I am thankful even though sometimes I don't show it.

When I arrived at SOAR I was amazed by the beauty of the mountains and the lodge where I get to stay. Waking up every morning

to snow and deer's playing in the front yard is amazing thing to see. I have been here for three weeks now and this is one of the only times in my life that I have been motivated to do well in school. I have never felt so proud in my school work as I do here. Knowing that three weeks ago I was a failure in life and now having hope that I can be just as successful as my parents. This is a great accomplishment for me.

I cannot wait for the great experiences that I will encounter in the next three months at SOAR.

-Kendrick Guehr-

The First BIG Trip...

Our first trip, Oh Boy! It was an adventure even before leaving base, with "the cleaning". We had to clean everything to make it nice for the next group. But when we were finally finished, everything was sparkling and everyone had a

sense of accomplishment. The first night we stayed at Flaming Gorge that was a chilling experience with the weather at a 5 degrees. After the gorge we went to Moab where we had a spectacular experience mountain biking. Then we

went to the Grand Canyon. Wow what a sight! We hiked all the way down to the bottom in just one day. At one point we were even in shorts and T-shirts. This expedition was a great experience and I can't wait to embark on the next one.

-John Sykes-



Harrison, Connor, Will, Erik, Isaac, Kendrick, & Nick fishing



Erik and John posing for the camera at base camp.



Megan, Wes, and Clemencia on top of Sinks canyon.

~ Saliz Voiture ~

As we headed down to the warmer climates of Arizona, we became aware of the concept that not every place is as cold as the frozen highlands of Northwestern Wyoming. We pulled into one of the premier sport climbing destination of Arizona, Jack's Canyon. It was dark, and hard to believe. There was also a considerable amount of "baking soda" all around us. I know everyone was thinking the same thing. How can that stuff be here too?! After a few mumbles and protests about who exactly allowed that "baking soda" to follow us south, we proceeded down the dirt road towards our destination. We crept down the road reading directions and checking mile markers. What happen next is mostly hearsay and partially mountain myth. Some folks might say it is the truth and "they saw it." Well, I can tell you only my side of this story. I was sitting in the back seat of the mighty 15 passenger van with nine heads in front of me. So to say the least my view was partially blocked. Looking through the small porthole in front of me, all I saw was a deep dark something. I never really saw it. However, I did hear it and feel it. I felt the pull of a mighty strength. The sound was like a weight lifter yelling to get that extra push. But no sooner than the yell, could you tell by the way it whimpered away whatever was trying had failed. The mighty beast had been slain. The silence was deafening,

as there was not a sound from inside or outside of the large white beast. The van was at a dead stop. Through my porthole view I saw nothing but dark night. The silence was broke by Clemencia. In a questioning tone she said, "Wes I think we are stuck?" From the moments preceding her statement I could do nothing but agree.

We decided to get out of the slain white beast for a closer inspection of the situation. I crawled from my way back seat, and as I progressed forward the side doors swung open. To my amazement the deep dark something was not just in front of us. We were in the middle of it. The mud hole looked to be the size of the Pacific Ocean. Like a ship stuck in the middle I looked for any noticeable land to use as refuge. Nothing. Then out of the corner of my eye, "land hoe", I hollered thinking I was still on that ship stuck out to sea. We were saved! I went out to scout this newly found land. It was solid and covered in snow. This would make a great home for us I thought to myself. So I went back to discuss our options with the captain of the ship. Clemencia and I chatted about the situation. With faces like hungry sailors after a long day of work we pressed against the windows of the white beast. We decided this would be our new home for at least the night. Food needed to be prepared and shelters erected so we called for the crew of this mighty ship to unload and setup on the nice piece of land we had found. Later that night, after bellies had been filled we sat around in our circle for the nightly meeting. We joked and laughed about the situation with an un-



easy tension. No one was quite sure how we would handle getting this white beast up and moving again. But it seemed to be ok. Our situation was not that bad we had a weeks worth of food, plenty of water, and warm dry sleeping bags to dive into. So, the captain of the mighty white ship and myself decided on a pre-sunrise rescue of our beloved vessel. We asked the crew to be ready for an early push in hopes that this ocean of mud would freeze during the cold winter night.

The morning came fast, and the crisp cold air made hands and feet feel nonexistent. It felt like we were on some arctic expedition, and not in Arizona. I have never greeted a cold morning quite like this one. Clemencia and I just looked at each other and we knew the cold that was felt on our faces would help move our great white vessel. As we approached the wedged van three crew members stood ready to help however they could. Isaac, Will, and Kendrick all easily walked over the frozen ocean of mud to our beached ship. Once the captain was in her seat she gave the signal. We pushed with everything we had and the white beast responded by leaping for the land. In minutes we were free and ready to roam the countryside once again. It felt great but I had to laugh because someone once told me, "It ain't an expedition until you get stuck in the mud."

Pictures from the Expedition...



Connor, Erik, Nick, Kendrick, Will, Isaac, Harrison, and John mountain biking in Moab, UT.



Will posing on top of the Grand Canyon.



Group Two Hanging out !

Wes Stanforth

Expeditions, Canyons, and Turkeys "OH MY"!

We went to a variety of places on our first expedition. We went to Moab, Utah; Flaming Gorge, Utah; Navajo Reservation, Arizona; Flagstaff, Arizona; and the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon was one of the best parts of the trip. It was so warm at the bottom. We also had several encounters with the natives of the canyon, the turkeys. They would chase us around the

camp sight, I'd have to say that was one of the major highlights of my expedition. I had a little trouble with the hiking down into the gorge and looking back I think I just packed too much! Mountain biking in Moab was a really fun time too. There were some nice down hill grades where you could catch



Turkeys in the bottom of the Grand canyon.

some nice air. The most exciting part was towards the end, there was a really long hill that you could get some major speed on! Those were my two favorite parts of this expedition, who knows what will happen on the next one.

-Will Peper-



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The Grand Canyon

Wow, I'm back at SOAR. I wasn't that excited to come back but that all changed when I met some really cool kids who I now call friends. The first expedition was also really fun and I'm having a great time here so far. The expedition started with a lot of driving. Then a night at a hotel because the roads were very dangerous and icy. We actually got to watch a bit of really static TV, a once in a lifetime thing at SOAR. Then we headed to Nevada and camped at valley of fire for a couple of days, which was really fun. It was actually pretty warm compared to Dubois where it was -20. We had a lot of fun there climbing the rocks and stuff. Next we went to Red Rocks in Nevada and went rock climbing. We also went to a gear store where I bought a camelbak, which I definitely needed for the backpack in the Grand Canyon. After that we had a pretty good dinner at Denny's. The next day we drove to the Grand Canyon. Trust me guys, it was really a GRAND canyon. Oh my God it was amazing. We camped there for a night and it was so cold. The next day we packed our big packs and hiked down to the bottom of the canyon. It was about a 7-mile hike.

That night we saw the ringtail cat for the first time. Man that thing was evil! It was plotting to steal all of our food but luckily we put our food in the food boxes. The next day we just hung out and we heard from our neighbors that the evil ring-tail ripped thru their tent and got a granola wrapper The day after we hike up 4 and half miles to the middle. On the way we saw deer and bighorn sheep. When we got to camp I saw a bobcat but no one else did except a random guy. The next morning we hiked to the top and made our way back to Dubois. Overall I think it was the best expedition I have had at SOAR.

-Jesse Wasserman-

My Experience in the Grand Canyon

Our group visited the Grand Canyon on our expedition. It was a pretty awesome trip! We saw lots of animals like turkeys, big horned sheep, squirrels, and even a bobcat. We met some pretty interesting people too. One group came from the most northern part of Alaska and they were going to the southern tip of North

America. I liked hiking and backpacking up the Grand canyon. We saw a lot of animals and cool things. I also enjoyed the rock climbing. I didn't get to the top, but I got farther then my fear of heights wanted me to! I really liked the

Grand Canyon and I wish we could go to the library so I can tell everyone about my adventure! This was an excellent, but cold expedition.

-Sean Barnett-



Jesse Wasserman at Whiskey Basin



Group One at the Grand Canyon!!

Do you know your Counselor Jeremy?

Getting to know Jeremy Neidens...
Interviewed by Max Kifer

What are your favorite hobbies?

I like to backpacking, climbing, hunting, and fishing

Who was your favorite monster?

The cookie monster

If you could have any job, would you still be at SOAR?

Yes, unless someone paid me to be a modern day explorer.

What is your favorite animal?

My dog Birch

What is your favorite type of vehicle in both the new and old eras?

In the new era it's a Toyota Tacoma from 2005 or older with 4 wheel drive, extended cab, and TRD package. In the old era of vehicles that I like is a international scout 2.



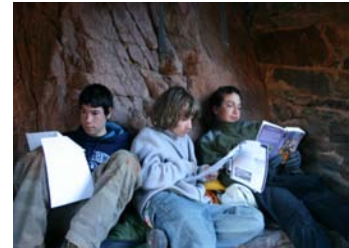
Taking time to look at the beautiful scenery.



Max enjoying some down time.



Group One eating a nice expedition meal.



Lance, Logan, and Jesse hard at work.

Warmer Climates "here we come"

The start of the Southwest Semester was quite exciting. We had three returning students who I had the pleasure of backpacking with last semester, and four new students joining us. The start of the semester greeted us with plenty of snow, wind and cold weather.

The first day of our expedition we awoke to a balmy 20 below zero outside. We wound up making some last minute changes to our original itinerary. We chose to head further south to find warmer weather and escape the arctic blast.

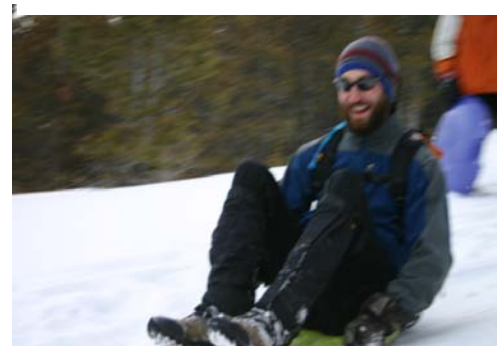
Our revamped schedule found us in southern Nevada camping in the Valley of Fire State Park. It was just what we were looking for, warm weather, rocks galore to explore and a campsite with all the amenities. We were even graced with a silhouette of a desert big horn sheep at sunset on a ridge one evening.

The highlight of our trip had

to be the awestruck reaction everyone had when we first glimpsed the infamous Grand Canyon. The awe quickly wore off when we began backpacking down from the snowy rim of the canyon. They all thought we were crazy for asking them to walk down into the depths of the earth carrying everything they needed for the next four days on their backs. They were more motivated to get to the bottom after learning that the temperature at the river is about twenty degrees warmer than it is at the rim. The trip down and back out was well worth every step. Being able to see all the different levels and colorations of the canyon as well as seeing a vast array of wildlife was exciting.

In a nutshell, our first expedition was great. Everyone is learning to take on more responsibility in the group and how to live with eight other individuals. It seems everyone is excited to be back to base and experience luxury lodge living for a few weeks

Jeremy Neidens



Jeremy Sledding the day away!