

# GODDARD GAZETTE

## GARDEN OF THE GODS

April 15 to 19, 2022

Volume 25 Section II, Part I

Special Edition: Colorado Trip



Little did we know that plans hatched during the summer of 2019 would be thwarted by a microscopic infectious agent. On Friday, April 15, 2022, after two arduous years, fourteen members of Goddard Cadet Squadron along with a very special guest were finally

en route to Colorado. There, we would meet up with one Wendy Waters, our former Deputy Commander for Cadets and best friend of this author. Born and raised in the Centennial State, who better to orchestrate a phenomenal adventure!

This image is courtesy of the following:

<https://thediscoverynut.com/the-most-beautiful-places-in-colorado/>

# Wings Over the Rockies

April 16, 2022

*A*fter a restful sleep and a satisfactory breakfast, on Saturday we toured the Wings Over the Rockies Aviation Museum in Denver. The exhibits were impressive, ranging from civilian to military aircraft. The cadets each had a turn in the flight simulators. Tucked away in a small amphitheater, private pilot Harrison Ford takes you along as he explores the beauty of the Colorado Rockies from the cockpit.



Jason Smith and Tom Webster.  
They look chill, but they were screaming during simulated flight!



Left to Right: Anna Mezhlauk & Sage Lafleur



Phelix Lafleur & James Niall are processing their "flight."



Henry O'Brien & Rebecca Singley are laughing in anticipation of sheer terror!



The Northrup Grumman EA-6B Prowler was an electronic warfare aircraft utilized by the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Its primary mission was to protect U.S. Naval Fleet surface units and other aircraft by jamming hostile radars and communications. It was officially retired in March 2019.



The group is standing in front of a North American F-86 H Sabre. The Sabre is the first swept-wing aircraft in the United States' fighter inventory. During the Korean War, it scored consistent victories over Russian-built MIG fighters.

Rear row, left to right: Cadet Kat Fontes, Capt Antonio Fontes, Cadets Tom Webster, Rebecca Singley, Jason Smith, SSgt Pauline O'Brien, Cadet Henry O'Brien, Col Tim Nelson, and Cadet Karl Farynaz

Front row, left to right: Cadets Anna Mezhlauk, Phelix Lafleur, Sage Lafleur, James Niall, & Ariana Ward



We had a surprise visitor, former CAP Cadet Christine Farynaz. Here she is with her brother, C/Maj Karl Farynaz.

Traveling south on Highway 83, we decided to explore the 17 Mile House in Centennial. During the Colorado Gold Rush (1859-1860), mile houses were situated every 3-4 miles along the wagon trails from Kansas. Here, travelers could eat a hearty meal and get much needed rest for their animals and for themselves. The arrival of the railroad in 1882 ended pioneer travel and the need for mile houses. Farmers purchased the buildings and the accompanying land.

The 17 Mile House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Everyone in our party enjoyed getting off the beaten path, stepping back and savoring an important part of our national history.



*Notice the interesting window near the peak.*



*We stopped at this farmhouse, built in the 1800s, in order to stretch our legs. It turns out that settlers from Massachusetts built this home!*



*Ever-intrepid, ever goofballs!*

**D**id you ever notice that cadets like to eat? After touring an aviation museum, it was only fitting to dine at The Perfect Landing Restaurant. This gem overlooks Centennial Airport in Englewood, one of the nation's busiest general aviation airports. The food was scrumptious, and the company was delightful!



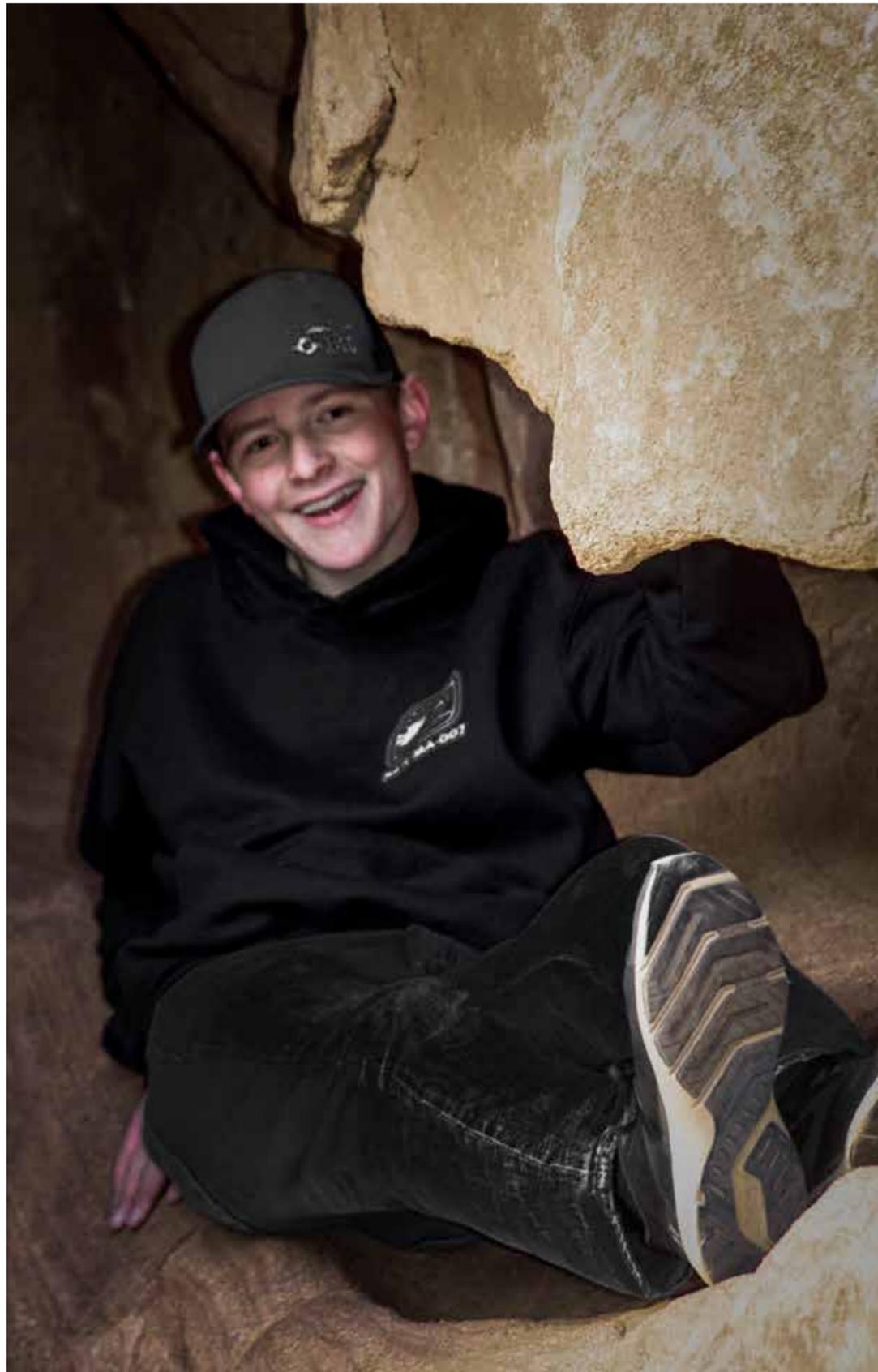
# The Garden of the Gods

was our final stop on Saturday. The rock formations were breathtaking both in scope and pigmentation. A lone Canadian goose was an interesting adjunct for our explorations. For a brief period, we misplaced our very special guest, but he managed to meander back to his entourage. It was exhilarating to climb up the rocks, posing far above the graveled pathways.



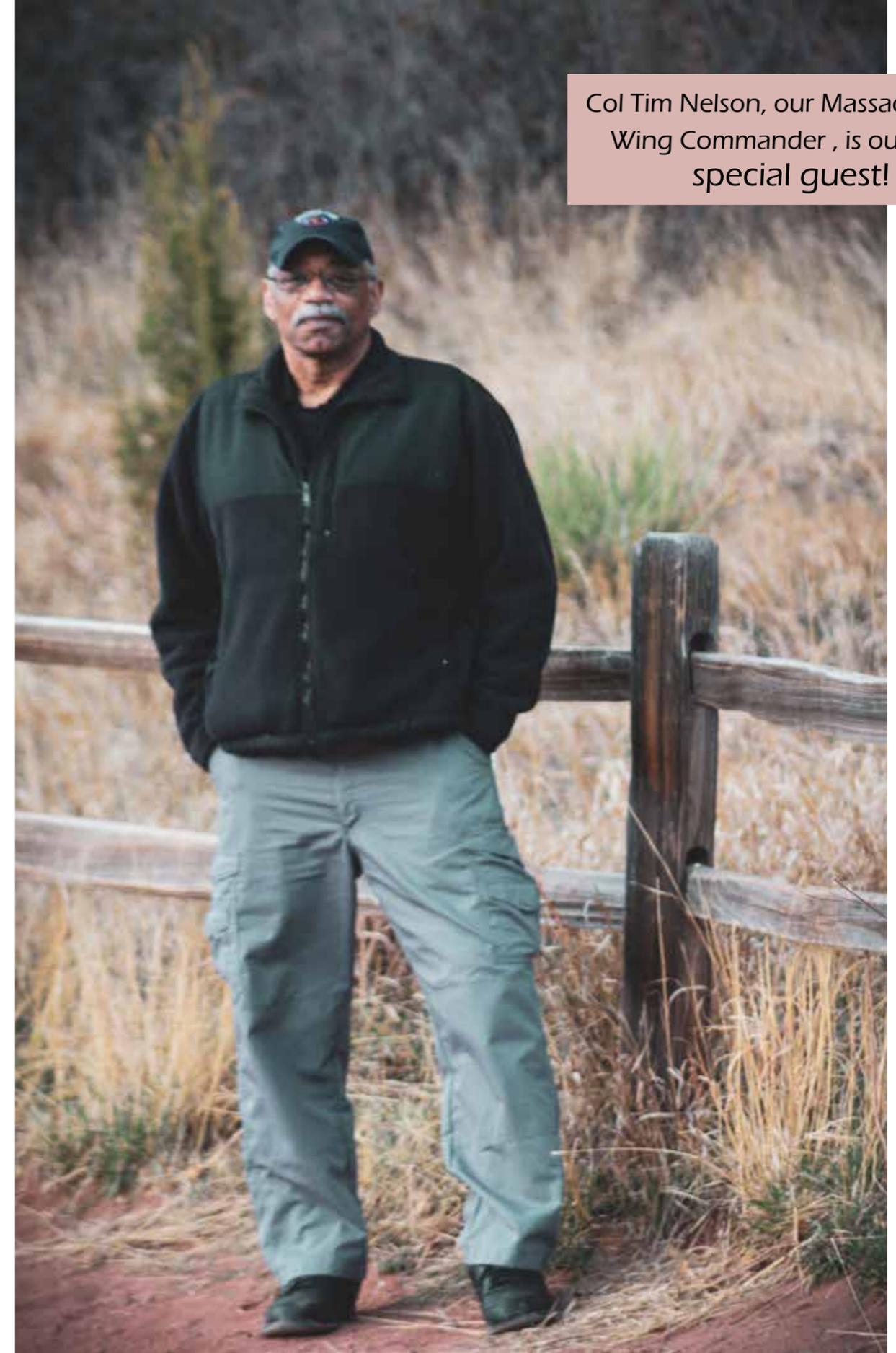
April 16, 2022

Sitting, left to right: Cadets Ariana Ward, Kat Fontes, Anna Mezhlauk, Rebecca Singley, Sage Lafleur, Tom Webster, James Niall & Henry O'Brien  
Standing, left to right: Cadet Jason Smith, SSgt Pauline O'Brien, Lt Col LouAnn Maffei-Iwuc, Cadets Phelix Lafleur & Karl Farynaz, and Capt Antonio Fontes, Commander of Goddard Cadet Squadron





Left column, top to bottom: Jason, Anna, and Ariana  
Right column, top to bottom: Sage, Tommy



Col Tim Nelson, our Massachusetts  
Wing Commander , is our very  
special guest!

**L**ater this same evening, we were graced with the arrival of United States Army First Lieutenant Kenny H. Le. A General Carl A. Spaatz Milestone Award recipient and former Cadet Commander for Goddard Squadron.

He is also a 2020 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Stationed at Fort Riley in Kansas, CAP Captain Le drove to Colorado Springs to spend several days with us. **OUTSTANDING!**



CAP Capt Antonio Fontes, SSgt Pauline O'Brien, Lt Col LouAnn Maffei-Iwuc, Wendy Waters, Col Tim Nelson, and U.S. Army 1Lt Kenny Le at the Garden of the Gods.

# CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO

April 17, 2022

**A**fter attending religious observances on Easter Sunday morning, Wendy led us to a clandestine destination. Even our special guest, pry as he might, was kept in the dark as to her intent. Lo and behold, her objective became clear as we rounded a curve

on a mountainside. We would be Wendy's guests at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. There, knowing of this writer's predilection for *Giraffa camelopardalis*, all would be given the opportunity to feed lettuce leaves to the tallest terrestrial animals on Earth. What was planned two years ago had become a reality!

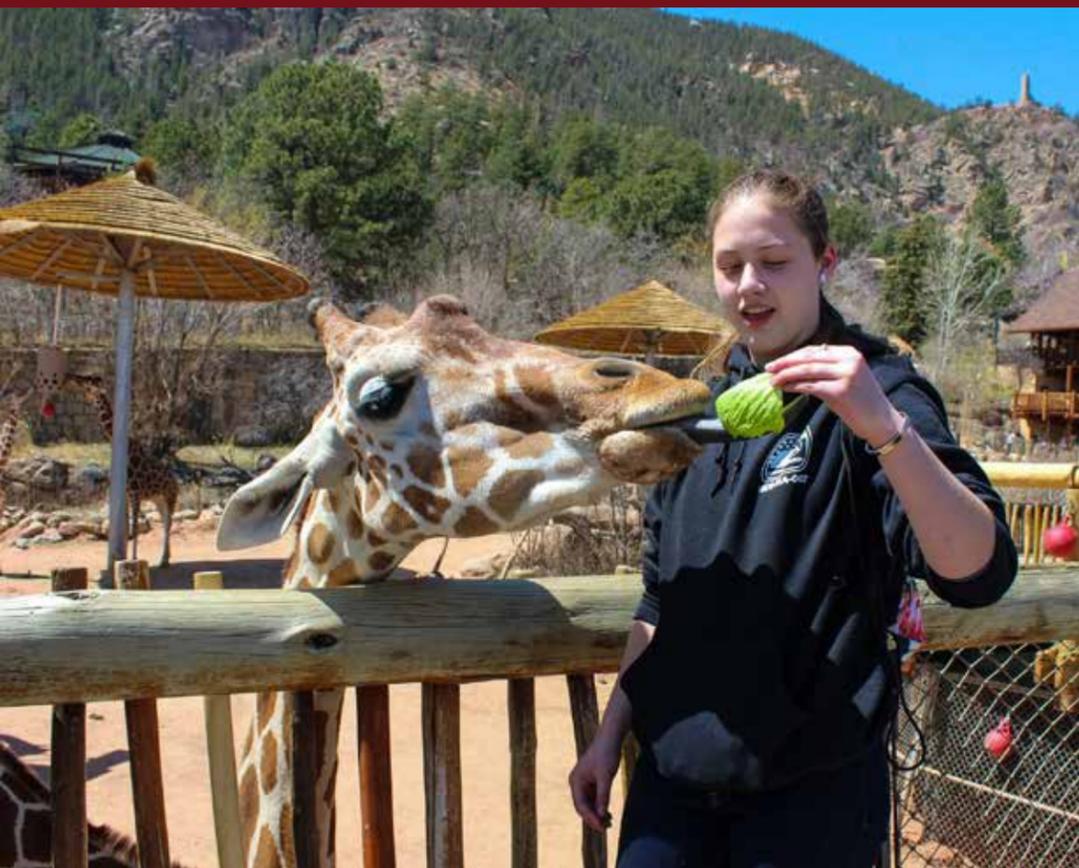


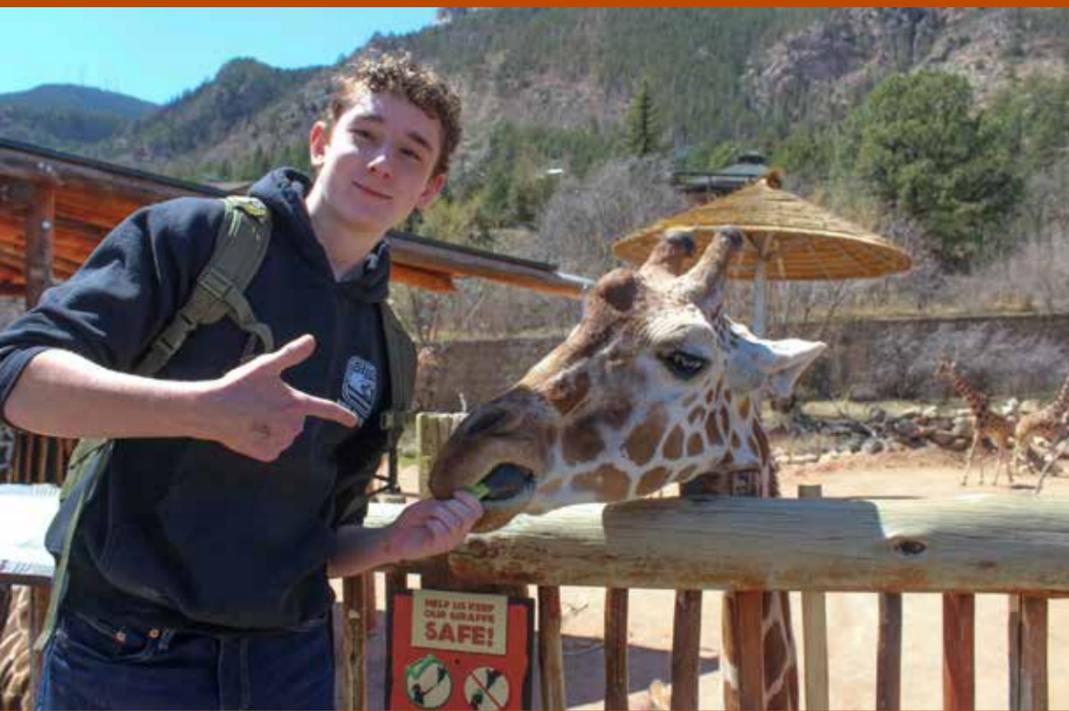


Ariana and Phelix making friends with a giraffe!



Col Nelson is trying his hand at feeding "Giraffa camelopardalis."







Tim Nelson and Kenny Le



Captain Antonio Fontes



Staff Sergeant Pauline O'Brien



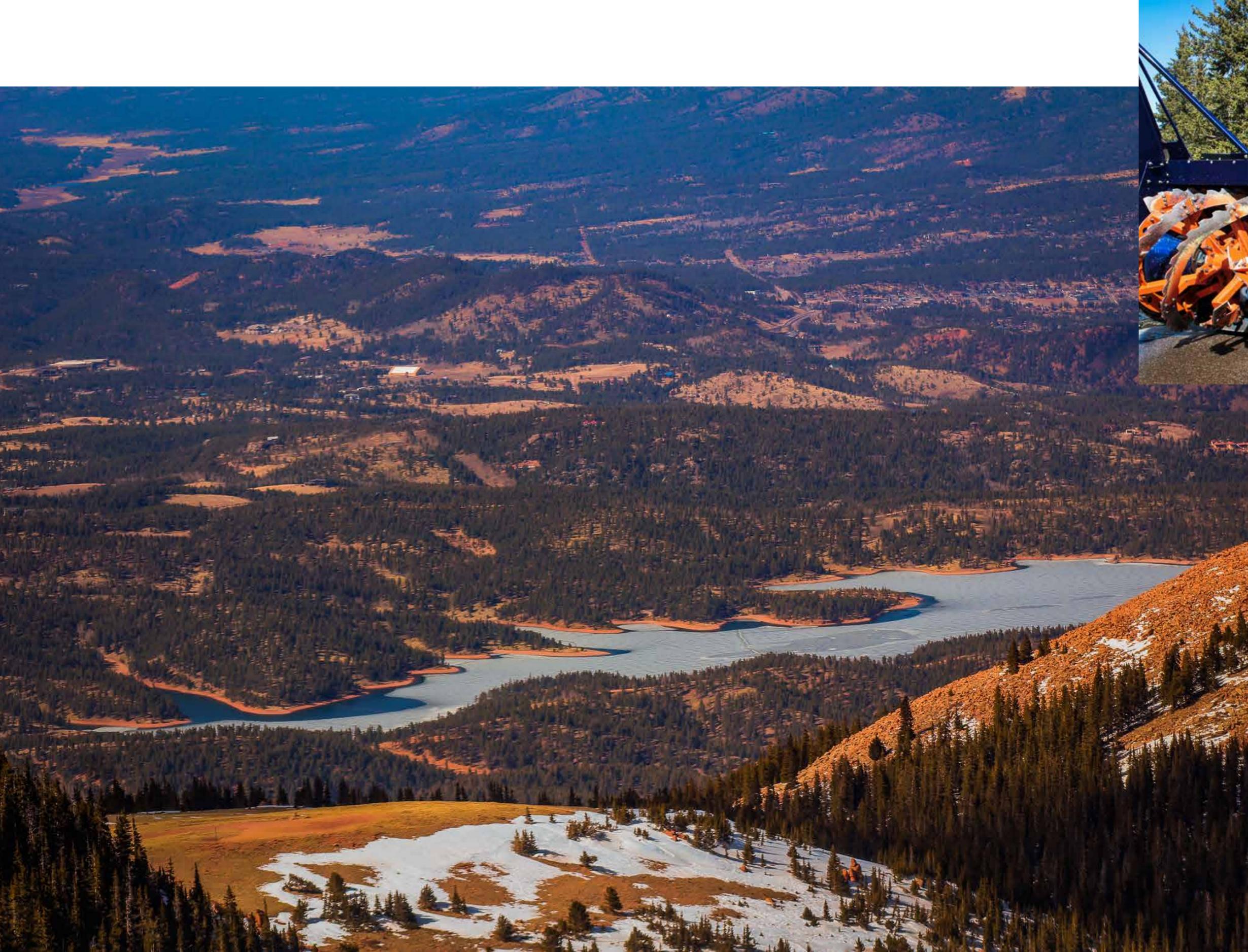
Making a new friend!



Love at first sight!

# PIKES PEAK

**D**uring the 1859 Colorado Gold Rush, Pikes Peak served as an important marker for those traveling west in search of riches. The slogan “Pikes Peak or Bust” symbolized the grit and determination of these pioneers. In contemporary times, Pikes Peak Highway winds around the mountainside, providing spectacular vistas of forests, alpine lakes, and snow-covered boulders above the timberline. Pikes Peak is a national treasure!.



Look at the size of one of the snowplows! Can you imagine what it would be like being caught in a blizzard?

“WE WILL NOT LIE, STEAL, OR CHEAT, NOR TOLERATE AMONG US ANYONE WHO DOES.”



## United States Air Force Academy

Monday was a very busy day. We started out at the United States Air Force Academy, exploring its athletic facilities and grounds.

The cadets selected a handsome Hawaiian-style shirt for our very special guest.

# AF Academy



The Cadet Natatorium is the home of the Air Force Academy's men's and women's swimming and diving teams and the water polo team..

U.S. Army 1LT Kenny Le with CAP C/Maj Karl Farynaz standing in front of a Boeing B-52 Stratofortress on the grounds of the Air Force Academy. Notice Col Nelson in the background.





The B-52 holds a special meaning for Col Tim Nelson, His father-in-law, Frederick Sabbs, Jr. was a B-52 pilot during the war in Vietnam. He flew 111 missions in Southeast Asia and was awarded the Air Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters. He was later stationed at Westover Air Reserve Base in

Chicopee, Massachusetts. Lt Col Sabbs was the Bomb Wing Vice Commander when he retired. It was time to depart from the United States Air Force Academy, and what a fitting way to say our collective good byes.

# EXO ANALYTICS

APRIL 18, 2022

THEN IT WAS ONTO EXOANALYTIC SOLUTIONS, WENDY'S PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT. THIS INNOVATIVE COMPANY OPERATES THE LARGEST OPTICAL TELESCOPE NETWORK IN THE WORLD WHICH CONTINUOUSLY TRACKS SATELLITES AND SPACE DEBRIS. THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL TO DEFENSE AND INTELLIGENCE

AGENCIES AND TO COMMERCIAL SATELLITE OPERATORS. AFTER MEETING ASTRONAUTICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, COMPUTER SCIENTISTS, PHYSICISTS, AND MATHEMATICIANS, THE CADETS HAD A HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY AND TRACK SATELLITES IN REAL-TIME. [IT WAS AWESOME!](#)



WENDY WATERS IS FLANKED BY THE CADETS. WENDY, FORMER DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR CADETS AT GODDARD SQUADRON, IS NOW A SPACE ANALYST AT EXOANALYTIC SOLUTIONS, COLORADO SPRINGS.

# GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve is one of the most interesting geological wonders! The tallest sand dunes in North America are nestled in a valley at a bend along the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Thousands of years

ago, streams brought large amounts of sand and sediment into the valley. The theory is that as winds blew sand towards the mountains, opposing storm winds squeezed the sand into tall dunes. Have you ever made a sand angel in a dune?



We are just specks in this vastness!



Cadet Jason Smith



Colonel Tim Nelson

THIS WAS SUCH AN AMAZING PLACE!



# Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Excursion

April 19, 2022

**G**oddard Squadron loves trains! It began with roundtrip journeys between Anchorage and Seward, Alaska in 2015 and again in 2021. Finding the perfect railroad excursion was an essential component in planning for the Colorado trip.

The choice was a “slam dunk.” The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad is a National Historic Landmark. In business for 140 years, the train transports passengers from Durango, Colorado into the San Juan National Forest. As we were traveling

in April, we traveled aboard the Cascade Canyon Winter Train, stopping at Cascade Canyon for a picnic lunch. From May through early September, passengers can travel further into the mountains, arriving at the historic mining town of Silverton.







HOLDING ONE CAR TO THE NEXT...



TAKING A WALK IN THE SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST



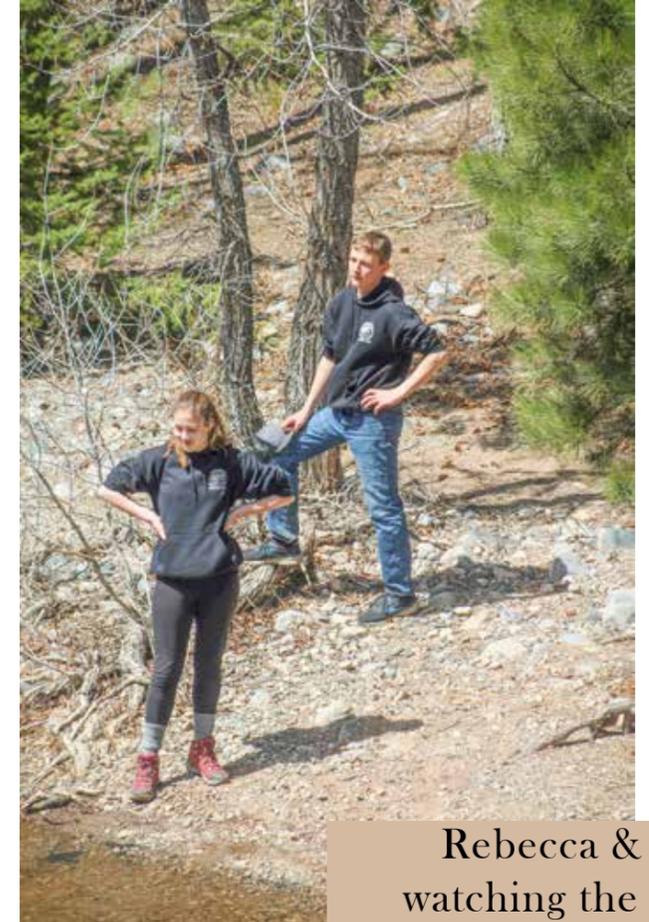
A gorgeous footbridge...



Karl Farynaz is the squadron champion!



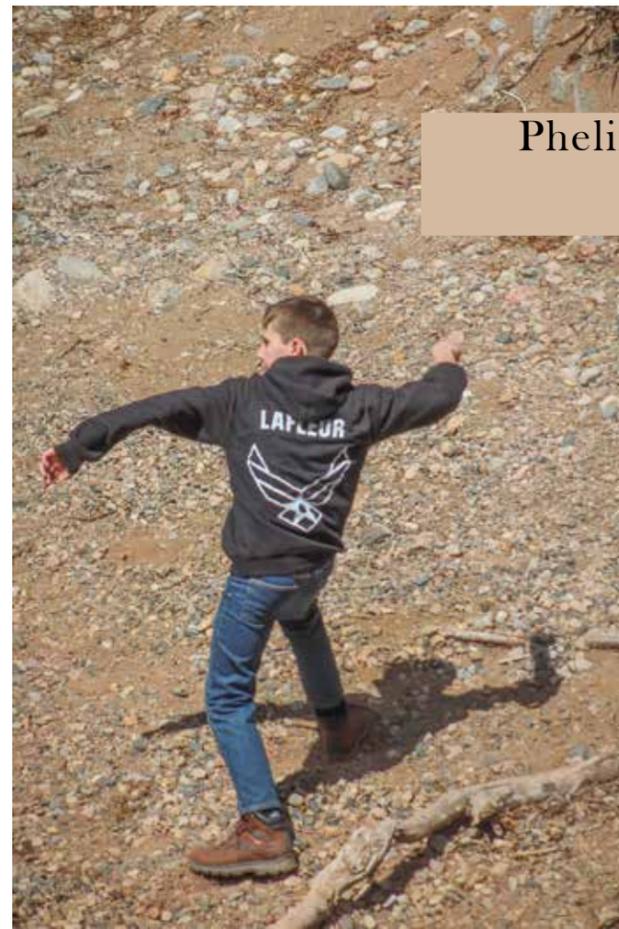
Note his technique...



Rebecca & Henry watching the river...



Rebecca tries her hand at skipping rocks.



Phelix is about to skip a rock!



Mission accomplished!

Our entourage was seated in the Knight Sky, in service since May 2012. It features leather-trimmed seats, an overhead dome that allows one to view the peaks of the San Juan Mountains, and the largest viewing platform on the railroad. Non-alcoholic beverages are included. Here is Captain Fontes enjoying a refreshment.



A sampling of the detailed metalworking on this historic railroad.

# From Durango to Mesa Verde National Park

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

In 1978, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated **Mesa Verde National Park** as a World Heritage Site. Visitors from all over the world make the trek to this park, marveling at the intricacies of architectural design created by an ancestral people.



Capt Fontes, quite rightfully, is very proud of his logistical wizardry!

Karl Farynaz



Katalina Fontes



Tommy Webster



Anna Mezhlauk



James Niall



Jason Smith



David "Phelix" Lafleur



They really do love each other! Siblings Sage & Phelix



Sage Lafleur



Tim Nelson



Henry and Pauline O'Brien



Rebecca Singley



Ariana Ward



James and Rebecca

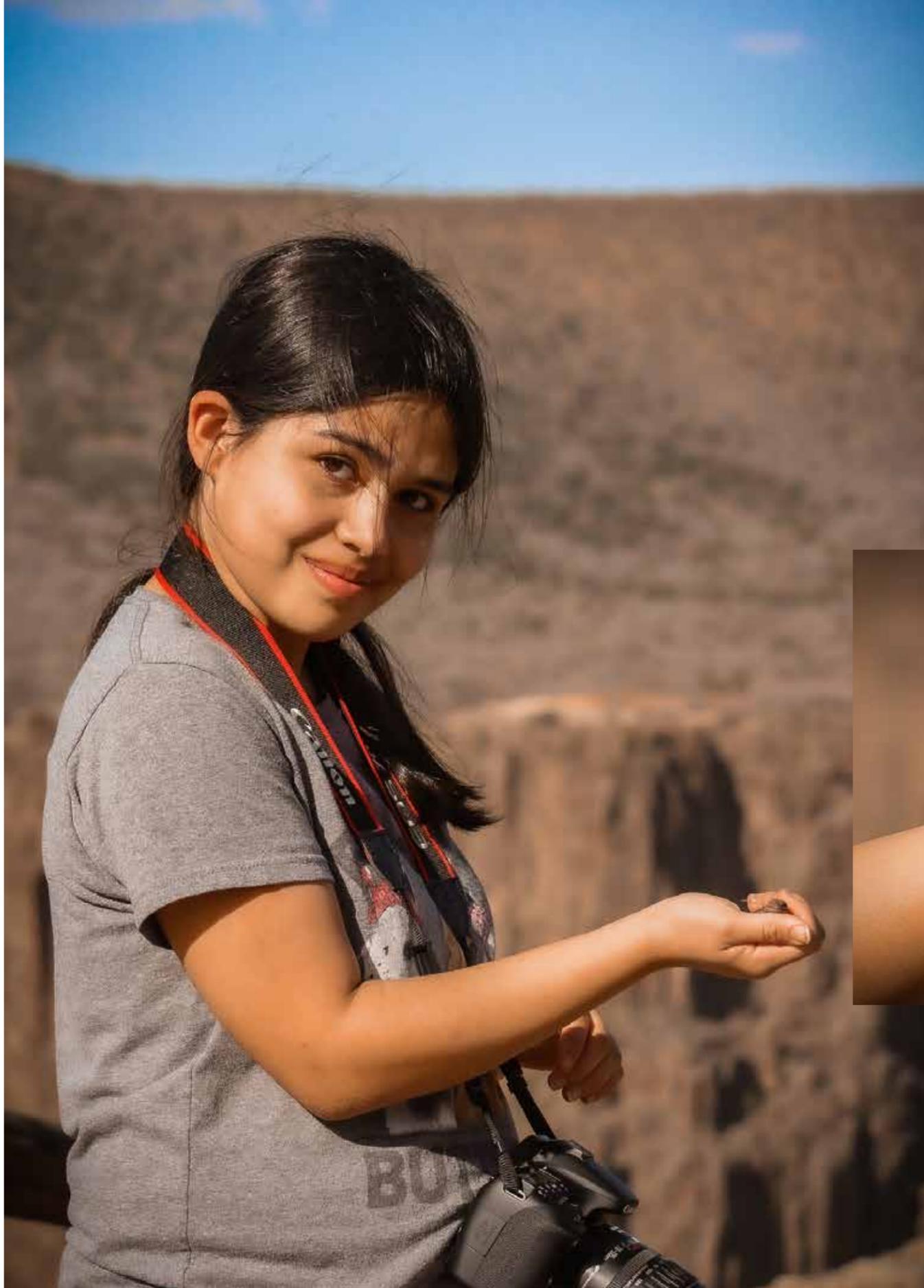






During the Classic Period (A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1300), the Ancestral Pueblo people shaped sandstone into rectangular blocks. The mortar was made from a mixture of mud and water. They designed two- and three-story buildings, using wooden beams in areas that needed extra support. Mesa Verde Cliff Palace, shown above, is the largest cliff

dwelling in the park. Just look at the magnificence of the stonework. Cliff Palace has over 150 individual rooms and more than 20 ceremonial rooms called kivas. Ladders were strategically placed to allow climbing from one story to the next. What a fascinating way to begin our day-long trek from southwest Colorado to Summit County.



This writer has known Katalina since she was a toddler. She is a naturalist and has a knack for finding small creatures!

# Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

*April 20, 2022*



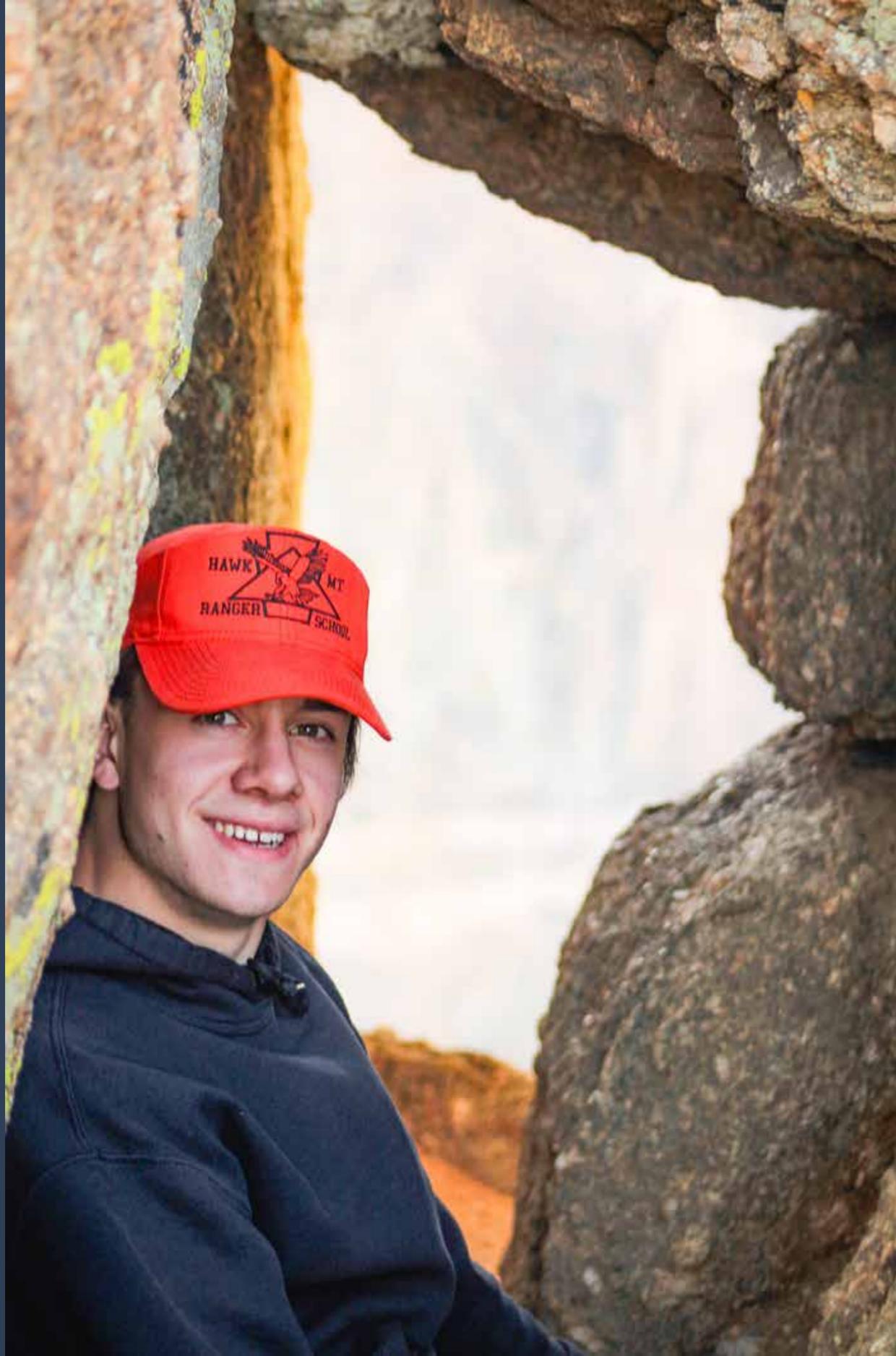
*Karl, Antonio and Tim at a lookout point.*

**I**t was a three-hour drive from Mesa Verde National Park to our next waypoint, Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Located near the town of Gunnison, this park is a hidden gem, a vertical wilderness with some of the oldest rock and steepest cliffs in North America.

**B**lack Canyon of the Gunnison National Park was certified as an International Dark Sky Park in September 2015. It strictly limits the amount of artificial light to that necessary for safety. To that end, it is a haven for astronomers and for all interested in viewing the primordial night sky.

**T**here are only a few photographs in this section, as many in the group went on to Summit County after stopping at the Visitor Center. Four intrepid individuals stayed on, taking time to explore this park by going off the beaten path.





*Karl at Black Canyon of the Gunnison*



*Karl, Wendy, and Jason at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park*

PUBLISHED  
BY  
GODDARD CADET SQUADRON

PHOTOGRAPHERS



Ghost  
Captain Antonio Fontes  
Cadet Airman First Class Kat Fontes



ILLUSTRATED

BY

VK DESIGN