

THE CampChuck REVIEWER

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Editor, critic, layout, distribution, and general factotum ...



Meryl Streep Leads Bike and Boat Tours

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Bicycling Where Trains Used to Tread

Some people greatly prefer these days to bicycle on paths dedicated as separate from where cars go. Some people prefer an essentially level bicycle route. The person who bicycles with that person found the Trail of the Coeur D'Alene, a 70-mile paved bicycle path.

We woke up from our first of four nights in Harrison, Idaho with our close to Lake Coeur D'Alene view. We rented bikes for 3 days. Our first outing we headed south, flat flat, very close to the lake the entire time. On this former train right-of-way, we crossed the lake. Our only "hill" was the high point of the bridge that affords leisure boats a way through. Retracing our wheelings, we completed our easy-peasy first day of bicycling. Next day, northward, again flat flat, led us through Coeur D'Alene River wetlands.

We rented bikes twice more for the hard-packed "rails-to-trails" dirt of the Hiawatha trail (also northern Idaho) and Myra Canyon outside Kelowna, British Columbia in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. These two routes sported train trestles to cross and tunnels to brave (including a 1.5-mile pitch blackness). We loved the views, the greens, the engineless sounds.



Day by Day

Mon 7/10: Fly Sacramento to Spokane via Boise; Drive 1.5 hours to Lakeview Lodge, Harrison, ID after quick dinner, market (incl. cooler buy).

Tue 7/11: Bike (rental) 17 miles outbak, "Trail of the Coeur D'Alene" paved rails-to-trails, south from Harrison next to lake (incl. across the lake).

Wed 7/12: Chuck bikes 18 miles outbak solo, north from Harrison. Drive around Thompson & Blue Lakes and to town of St. Marie's. Kayak (rental) 2 miles Lake Coeur D'Alene, wetlands and river.

Thu 7/13: Bike 22 miles outbak north from Harrison; Chuck bikes 8 more solo south.

Fri 7/14: bike (rental) 17 miles one way on "Hiawatha" dirt rails-to-trails, incl. many tunnels & trestles, essentially all gently downhill; bus shuttle back. Drive to 2 nights Tamarack Lodge 15 mins. from West Glacier.

Sat 7/15: Glacier Nat'l Park "Going-to-the Sun" road slowly outbak many stops, about a mile of hiking total.

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To view photo sets from the trip click the Idaho, Glacier & Canada links at the top right of campchuckmarvina.blogspot.com.

Three Boat Boosts



Our travels have not included cruises. We tend toward do it yourself and unpackaged adventures. On this trip, however, we did leverage boat boosts big time.

Half of our week in Glacier Nat'l Park focused on the east side entrances. We took the Two Medicine Lake guided ride across the two-mile-long lake. Our hike to Twin Falls and back, we saved hiking around the lake both back as well as forth.



Maybe the grandest view of our Glacier Park visit, certainly our most picturesque location across a Glacier Park lake, comes at the end of the Many Glacier road. There we took not one boat but two, with a quarter mile walk between boat legs. Again, we added to the guided water tours a hike that otherwise would require walking out and back around the lakes. Our mile woodsy walk each way brought us to Grinnell Lake (below its glacier).



We added Waterton National Park to our otherwise rather scheduled trip. By far the biggest boat ride, it not only crosses a 7-mile-long lake, it crosses an international

border into Glacier National Park. Canada and the United States coordinate the administration of this testament to cooperative nations, not to mention this recognition that the ecology is the same on both sides of the political boundary. You need not show a passport unless you plan to hike beyond the time frame of the boat's stopover.

Although there is no border line floating in the water, but a legislated cut line on both sides makes the border visible, along with the beautiful Rocky Mountain scenery. (Note the cut line on the right side of the third photo.)

Manufactured Mailbag

Dear Editor,

When you're in Montana, can't you just bop over into North Dakota? That's the only state you haven't been to, right?

Wanda Moore, Weestate, Rhode Island
Dear Wanda,

Our week in Glacier Nat'l Park, Montana was still a 9-hour drive away from the North Dakota Border. Looks like that 50th state will have to wait.

Ed.

Dear Editor,

Man, I know you're stuck on this outdoorsy travel stuff, but bro, can't you tell yourself you've gotta see at least one movie on each of these trips?

A friend, Los Angeles

Dear Friend,

I don't gotta, but on this 3-week trip we did. "The Big Sick" is an awkward romantic comedy with a genuine formula-tweaking feel and likeable chemistry that builds well.

Ed.

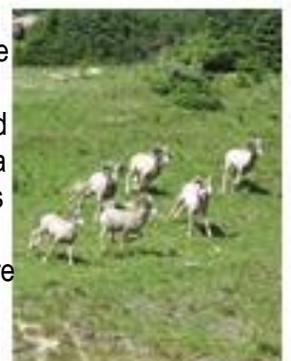


We kayaked once this trip, toward sunset, in Harrison, ID on Lake Coeur D'Alene.

And What of Wildlife Sightings?



Marvina did not get to see a live moose during this moose-country trip (though we ate at the Moose Hotel in Banff and the Rusty Moose in Spokane). We had a minute or two near a cinnamon-colored bear moving beside the "Many Glacier" road in Glacier Nat'l Park before it ambled up into woods. We saw a mountain goat close-up on a Glacier Park trail and one a ways away. We saw a badger crossing a steep slope a ways from us. We saw eagles and egrets. The highlight, clearly, was more than a dozen long horn sheep, herding around, grazing, running. A couple of them even reared up in a friendly clash.



So Many Magnificent Mountains

Mountains. When you've seen one you've seen 'em all.

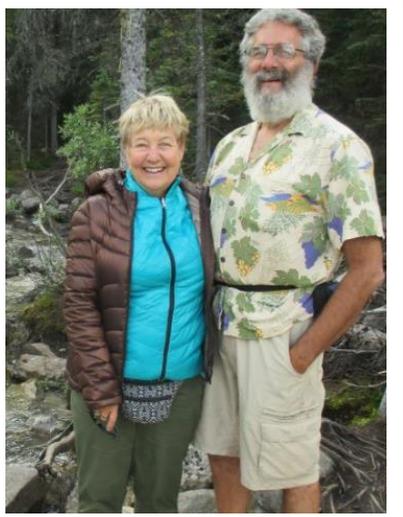
Nuh-uh.

The heights and steepness, the jags and jogs of perspective, the layers on a mountain and from mountain to mountain and more mountains. The millions of years that literally move mountains in geologic mega-crinkles when one tectonic plate shoves under another tectonic plate.

The summer snowfields, the glaciers. Only a few decades ago, Glacier National Park had 150 glaciers; today, 26 remain; tomorrow – 2030 – Glacier National Park is projected to have zero glaciers.

The roads through flanked valleys; the roads through forged passes. In Canada's Alberta Province, there's a wide divided expressway through Banff National Park (though the speed limit provides some perspective). There's solid cliff rock on one side of many stretches of the "Going to the Sun" road through Glacier National Park in Montana and a squat stone barrier encouraging you not to fall off the other side of two narrow, winding lanes.

The roads that dead end where a road just had to go but could only go so far. The roads that ever beckon from wonderful trip to this wonderful trip to a next wonderful trip.



Find links to photo sets of this trip at campchuckmarvina.blogspot.com.

Look for the Idaho, Glacier, and Canada links near the top right. Each link opens its own window. If you click on a photo look for the "Slideshow" tab and click "Play" or click through individually. (may work a bit differently on handheld devices)



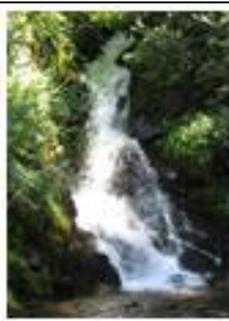
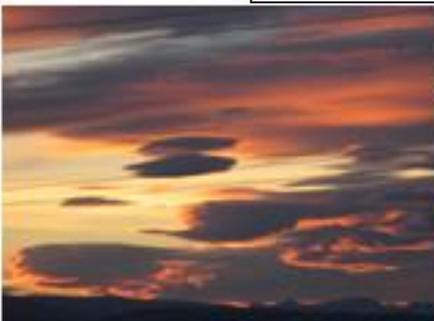
Always Looking for a Next Waterfall

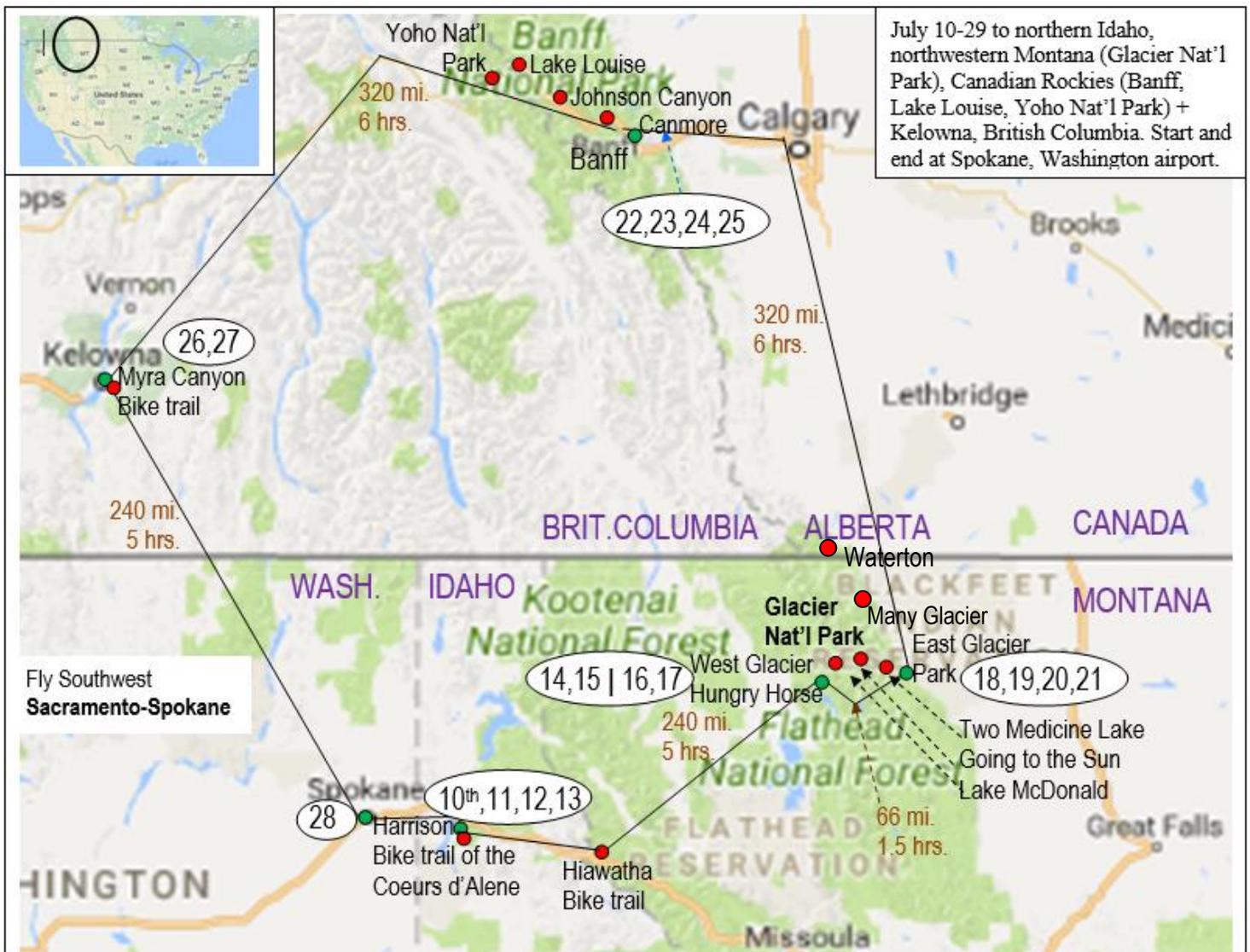
Waterfalls. When you've seen one you've seen 'em all.

Nuh, uh.

These mountains made so many waterfalls. Sometimes you had to scratch your head whether some of the bouncing, coursing, long plummets were waterfalls or just "runoff," especially when there was no signage at hand naming all the compelling water works.

The waterfall on the Hiawatha bicycle trail in northern Idaho was a bonus surprise after pedaling through a pitch black one-and-a-half-mile-long tunnel. Running Eagle Falls and Alder Falls provided two playful destinations on separate trails on the road to Two Medicine Lake. After a 10-mile spur off the main road into Canada's Yoho National Park, a short stroll revealed many angles on an 800-foot-high falling wonder.





Day by Day (continued from page 1)

Sun 7/16: Short McDonald Creek Falls hike; drive NW Lake McDonald dirt drive; bushwhack to secluded beach; Switch to Golden Mini Inns 15 mins from West Glacier for 2 nights.

Mon 7/17: Hike 4 miles outback of Highline Trail at Logan Pass top of “Going-to-the-Sun” road. Finish reading “The Majesty of the Law” by Justice Sandra Day O’Connor; first real dining: Lake McDonald Lodge.

Tue 7/18: Drive to 4-night stay at Dancing Bears Inn, East Glacier 15 mins. from Two Medicine part of Nat’l Park. Hike outback 2 miles, Appistoki Falls half mile Running Eagle Falls.

Wed 7/19: Museum of the Plains Indians, Browning, incl. a native painter & native quill weaver; Two Medicine Lake Tour Boat to 2 mile outback hike to Twin Falls.

Thu 7/20: Hike 2 mile outback Alder Falls at Two Medicine; dining Glacier Park Lodge; Ernie Heavy Runner talk; laundry.

Fri 7/21: Many Glacier boat tour (1/4 mile to 2nd boat); hike 2.5 miles outback to Grinnell Lake and Hidden Falls; off the charts veggie burgers in Babb.

Sat 7/22: Drive to 4-night stay at Holiday Inn, Canmore, Alberta via Waterton Nat’l Park boat tour & Cameron Lake.

Sun 7/23: Drive to Yoho Nat’l Park, Takkakaw Falls & Emerald Lake (short hikes); Drive to Lake Louise (twice, no parking noon; OK at 530); dining at Pacini’s, Banff.

Mon 7/24: punted on Banff bike rental; short hike from Bow Falls; Hiked 3-mile outback Johnston Canyon to lower and upper falls; Hiked 2 mile outback at Moraine Lake (no parking evening before; OK at 430 next day).

Tue 7/25: Banff Gondola to top of Sulphur Mountain; Hike 1-mile outback to top top; Drive to Vermillion, Minnewanka, Two Jack & Johnson Lakes; dining Santa Lucia, Canmore.

Wed 7/26: Drive to 2-night stay, Kelowna, British Columbia; hike “rockgarden” in Canada’s Glacier Nat’l Pk near Roger’s Pass; finish reading “A Wizard of Earthsea” by Ursula LeGuin.

Thu 7/27: Bike (rental) 13 mile outback Myra Canyon rails-to-trails; movie: “The Big Sick.”

Fri 7/28: Drive to Spokane; return car, airport Best Western

Sat 7/29: Fly Spokane to Sacramento via Las Vegas. Home.