

November 2011

Special Interest

Don't miss "The Way," starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez.

"The Way" is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends, and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world. Martin Sheen plays Tom, an American doctor who comes to St. Jean Pied de Port, France to collect the remains of his adult son (played by Emilio Estevez), killed in the Pyrenees in a storm while walking the Camino de Santiago, also known as The Way of Saint James. Rather than return home, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage to honor his son's desire to finish the journey. What Tom doesn't plan on is the profound impact the journey will have on him."

View the trailer at <http://theway-themovie.com/film.php>

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COLORADO TRAIL DAY HIKES

Hiking in Colorado is one of the most beautifully rugged and enchantingly places on earth to spend a fall day hiking. In October, we were fortunate to have spent two marvelous days hiking the Colorado and Continental Divide Trails near the town of Breckenridge. And adding to the majesty of the surrounding mountains was the tapestry of fall colors; the blazing yellows and oranges of the aspens contrasted against the lush greens of pine and spruce. At times the color was so vibrant that we had to don our sunglasses.

Using the Fireside Inn in Breckenridge as our home base, we set out the first day on an hour-long, but amazingly scenic, drive to the trailhead at Kenosha Pass. On the way we passed through the small town of Almo, with its

assortment of café's, shops and quaint dwellings, all of which were reminiscent of the mining town that use to prosper there. Then it was on to Fairplay, where there are also many services for the wayward traveler. Fairplay is a good alternative to Breckenridge if you are looking for a place to stay closer to the trail. In Fairplay, we headed north on Rte. 285, through the small village of Jefferson and on to the trailhead at Kenosha Pass, at 10,000' elevation.

Since it was the height of the "leaf peeper" season, the trailhead parking lots were jammed to overflowing with hikers and bikers wanting to take in the final views of the surrounding mountain foliage before winter set in. Needless to say, our hike would not be one offering much in the way of solitude, and we spent a good deal of time stepping

off the trail to let bikers pass. However, the bikers in Colorado were very cordial and considerate of the hikers with whom they shared the trail, unlike the bikers we come in contact with on trails in the D.C. metropolitan area.

At the trailhead, we had the option of heading either east or west, and we chose the latter, toward the Goldhill Trailhead. This is Segment Six of the CT. Our reasoning was that the majority of the hikers and bikers would go east on the section with less elevation change. We encountered several steep climbs, but overall our out-and-back hike of just under nine miles was moderate in difficulty. Along the way we walked through stands of conifers, across meadows of prairie grasses, and into stands of glowing aspens. It was a wonderfully clear day, so we had superb views of the 14,000-foot peaks of the Mosquito Range and an eagle's-height view of South Park and Baker Lake. We stopped for a snack break in the shade of several stately pines at the intersection with Forest Service Road 427, and then headed back. As we neared our car, we found ourselves still overwhelmed by the majestic beauty we had just traveled through, and wished that we had more time to spend on this trail.

We took the wonderfully scenic Boreas Pass Road

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back to Breckenridge. This oftentimes narrow, and always dusty road, took us through the eclectic little village of Como, over 11,482-foot Boreas Pass, with its old railroad buildings and restored railroad water tower, and down the other side right into Breckenridge. The plethora of astounding views of the valleys below made the slow journey worth every minute.

Since our final day in Colorado left us no time for a day-long hike, we chose to do a 4.6-mile, out-and-back on the Colorado/Continental Divide Trail from the Goldhill Trailhead, on Rte. 9, on our way out of Breckenridge. We walked through large stands of pine, and were surrounded by acres of weathered deadfall that looked like a large game of "pick-up sticks." Once again the brilliant aspens dotted the landscape as we meandered through open pastures with hawks circling above. We even took a few moments to sit on a porch swing strategically placed at a viewpoint where we could ponder the beauty of the valley below. It was a brief, but exhilarating hike, one that we highly recommend.

For additional details about these hikes, please email us at randy.a.motz@verizon.net

"Solemates" Update

In addition to a Kindle version, our book *"Solemates – Lessons on Life, Love & Marriage from the Appalachian Trail,"* is now available for the Nook and at the Apple Store where you can download it to your iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch and to your computer using iTunes. Within a few weeks, it will also be available for the SONY WiFi Reader, Kobo Pulse, through Diesel and all other eBook formats - even your Android phone.

Early in 2012, our second book, *"The Walk – Reflections on Life & Faith from the Appalachian Trail,"* will also be available in eBook formats.

Tech Talk

Over the years we have tried many headlamps, some good and some not so good. And we have spent lots of money on batteries that never seem to survive the hiking off-season. Now we think we have found the solution to both these dilemmas – the **Petzl Tikka 2 CORE** headlamp.

Its 4 LEDs provide even lighting throughout your field of vision, with no blank spots in the beam, and the LEDs throw the beam up to an amazing 32m (105 feet).

However, the most attractive feature of this new headlamp is its Core lithium-ion rechargeable battery that can be recharged up to 300 times, making it equivalent to more than 900 AAA alkaline batteries.

This headlamp can also be set up for your specific needs by downloading the Petzl OS software to modify the functionality of your headlamp. You can select regulated or unregulated output and adjust settings to affect battery life and light intensity.

The standard USB connection allows the battery to be recharged from any USB charger, such as a computer, a solar panel or a portable energy source. It can also be recharged from a cell phone charger, a car's 12-volt socket or a wall outlet with the appropriate adapters.

When the headlamp is in regulated mode, the battery provides up to 23 hours of use when on the low setting and 5 hours on high. The battery recharges in about 3 hrs.

We highly recommend this powerful and versatile headlamp.



Christmas Shopping

Looking for the perfect gift for that friend or family member who loves the outdoors? Here are some suggestions we would like to offer you.

BOOKS

"Solemates – Lessons on Life, Love & Marriage from the Appalachian Trail"

"The Walk – Reflections on Life & Faith from the Appalachian Trail"

"Exploring the Appalachian Trail by RV, Sort Of..."

DVDs

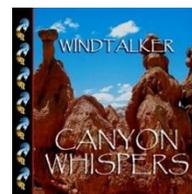
"Appalachian Trail Reflections"

CDs

"Windtalker – Native SoundScapes"

All of the above items are available through our website, www.RMGHAdventures.com

New CD Available Soon



Windtalker's new CD, *"Canyon Whispers"* will be available this December.

The hauntingly beautiful sound of Native American flute takes you on a soothing musical journey through the majestic lands of the "Ancient Ones;" a land of breathtaking and magical landscapes where Native history is still etched on every desert and mesa, and where the gentle whispers of a proud people still echo in every canyon.

If you would like to pre-order a copy of this CD for a special price of \$11.00, and FREE shipping, send a check to the Qualtech Resource Group, Inc, 18904 Ferry Landing Circle, Germantown, MD 20874 along with your name, address, phone number, and email address. I will ship your CD(s) as soon as they are available. (Maryland residents add sales tax of \$0.66 per copy)