

June 2011

Special Interest

- June 18, 2011
1:00-1:30PM

"Windtalker"
performs
Native American
flute music
at
Appalachian Trail
Museum Festival
Pine Grove Furnace
State Park
1120 Pine Grove Road
Gardner, PA

- June 19, 2011
12:00-2:00PM

"Windtalker"
performs
Native American
flute music
at
Knob Hall Winery
14108 St. Paul Road
Clear Spring, MD
21722

- July 13, 2011
7:00PM

"Windtalker & Mom"
present
"The Joys of
Backpacking as a
Couple"
at
REI
1701 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD

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Adventures in the Land of the Midnight Sun

If you ever get the chance to visit Alaska, do not pass it up. "Mom" and I just returned from eight days in Anchorage, Denali National Park and the Kenai Peninsula. It was a trip we did not want to end. We would like to pass on some information about our adventure just in case you are planning a trip to Alaska yourself.

First, we took the Alaska Railroad from Anchorage to Denali, where we stayed at the Denali Princess Lodge. You can book this trip by going to the Princess.com. Pick the option that best fits your needs. We traveled during the "shoulder season" which provided great savings on every aspect of our Denali trip. However, because we went early in the season, some things were not yet open or available and the staffs on the train and lodge were still being trained, so service was not what it would be later in the season. The train ride was wonderful, with a bar that was open the entire trip and a dining car where we ate delicious meals. Food and drinks are not included in the train ride price. Along the way we saw moose, caribou, black bears, beavers and bald eagles.

At Denali National Park, do not get roped into taking the Princess bus tours into the

park. For less than half the price, you can take one of the park's own buses. And, if you have a National Park Pass, it is even cheaper. You won't get the minute by minute narration that you get on the Princess bus, but if you want to get off the bus and do a short hike, you can. Then you simply jump on the next park bus that comes by to finish your trip. We wish we had known this the day before, when we rented a Jeep and drove into the park to do a magnificent loop hike along Savage River. On our bus trip, we saw five grizzly bears, a Lynx, Dall sheep, numerous caribou, ptarmigans (the state bird) and moose. As usual, Denali, or Mt. Whitney, as is listed on most brochures, was enshrouded in clouds, so we did not get to see it until our train ride back to Anchorage.

When we returned to Anchorage, we rented an RV and spent the next five days driving the Kenai Peninsula from Homer to Seward. This is a wonderful road trip where we parked our RV on the beach at both Homer and Seward, and other times used National Forest Service campgrounds or the paved "pull-outs" along the highway. We made stops at Anchor Point, the furthest point west in North America that can be reached by car and Ninilchik, where we visited an historic, old

Russian Orthodox church with its cemetery surrounded by a white picket fence. We visited the famous Salty Dawg Saloon in Homer and on our walk there marveled at the hundreds of Bald Eagles perched atop virtually every light post and roof top.

We did get some other hiking in. During our stay at the NFS campground in Coopers Landing, we hiked the Russian River Trail and a section of the Resurrection Pass Trail, both having marvelous views and spectacular waterfalls. While sitting near the trail having a snack on the Resurrection Pass Trail, we were forced to cut our break short, when the roar of a grizzly bear emanated from the woods right behind us. Needless to say, we were looking over our shoulders on the way back to our RV.

Despite 17 hours of daylight each day, which made falling asleep a bit difficult, it was one of the greatest trips we have ever been on. A trip to this part of Alaska should be on everyone's "to do" list."

There are simply too many things about this trip to include in this newsletter. So, if you would like more details, email us at randy.a.motz@verizon.net and I gladly will fill you in.

Upcoming Trail Events



APPALACHIAN TRAIL MUSEUM FESTIVAL – “Celebrating the Trail and the Museum’s 1st Anniversary”

Friday - Sunday
June 17 - 19, 2011

Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Gardner’s, PA

A weekend of events celebrating the museum’s 1st anniversary. There will be music, vendors, guest speakers and activities for the entire family. Come meet AT thru-hikers who stop at the nearby store to compete in the trail’s famed “Half Gallon Ice Cream Eating Challenge.” The first inductees into the museum’s “Hall of Fame” will also be made. For more information on this event, and the museum itself, visit <http://www.atmuseum.org>

(Georgia and I will have a vendor booth at this event and I will be giving a Native American flute concert as well)



38th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

July 1-8, 2011

Emory & Henry College
Emory, VA

A week of exhibits, informative seminars, hikes on numerous trails in the area, excursions, music, food, fun and ATC’s annual business meeting. For more information, and to register for the conference, visit <http://www.appalachiantrail.org>

(“Windtalker” will be a panelist at the workshop, “Thru-Hikers Share Secrets of Success.”)



5th ANNUAL RUTLAND LONG TRAIL FESTIVAL – “A Celebratory Gathering to Inspire Individuals to Participate in the Outdoors”

August 6, 2011

Vermont State Fairgrounds
Rutland, VT

Unfortunately, this event is CANCELLED FOR 2011!

“Mom’s Photo Appears in Magazine

One of “Mom’s” photos, taken last year during our completion of The Long Trail, appears on page 31 of the most recent issue of the Long Trail News, published by the Green Mountain Club. We had stopped to take a break on a rock outcropping where “Mom” snapped a photo of me playing one of my flutes with Camel’s Hump in the distance. Needless to say, she was very excited to see one of her photos published.

“Solemates” Update

Over the last three months, two exciting developments have taken place with our book, “*Solemates – Lessons on Life, Love & Marriage from the Appalachian Trail.*” First, “*Solemates*” is now available in an electronic format for Kindle users. The reception to this version of the book has been gratifying. Secondly, and probably more importantly, our book won a National Indie Excellence Book Award for outstanding writing by an independent author/publisher. We are extremely humbled and excited about receiving the prestigious award.

Tech Talk – Sleeping Bag Liners

Do you want to minimize that “hiker aroma” that builds up over time in your sleeping bag? Are you looking for a way to add a few additional degrees of warmth to the bag you already have? **TRY A SILK BAG LINER!** Silk bag liners capture much of the sweat and grime that you bring into your bag after a hard day on the trail and they are much easier to wash than an entire sleeping bag. Our experience has been that using a silk bag liner also adds some additional warmth to whatever bag you use it in. Another advantage to carrying a liner is that on those hot summer nights, when even your summer bag is too warm, simply slip into just your liner.