

INSIDE *Singletree*

SEPTEMBER 2018

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE

The PLATT Family

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Olga Barron
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Hello *Singletree* Residents!

publisher's note

Welcome to my favorite month! From the first time I saw the aspen leaves change, I was hooked on September. What a glorious time to say goodbye to summer, take a moment to enjoy your favorite hike or bike ride amidst the aspens in all their stunning beauty, and anticipate the coming of winter. I never tire of September.

In early July, I had the pleasure of starting my Sunday morning meeting Kelly and Jason Platt and their energetic and adorable sons, Mathias and Auggie. Kelly and Jason have enjoyed living in Singletree for the last three years and here, share the paths that brought them to their home under the crab tree in Persimmon Woods and their outlook on the future.

We venture far from our backyard in this issue as Rohn Robbins shares his family adventure in the Amazon, where grubs are a delicacy, and in fact, it is impolite to refuse to partake. This 'vacation' is not for the faint of heart, laden with insects, critters and relentless heat and humidity. And yet the wonder of it all makes this experience a bucket list contender! Pam Beaudin shares her trek as a Rotarian in the Himalayas where she visited several vil-

lages to help bring services to remote enclaves such as Skumpata, population 109 in 11 homes at 13,500 feet above sea level. And Christopher Dunn, a fan of family trips, tells us about his activities in Mexico, Hawaii and Eagle Lake Camp in Colorado Springs. These stories and more make for great September reading!

We are excited to invite you to celebrate the end of summer and the anticipation of fall with a Back-to-School party for families with kids of all ages at the Chip Ramsay Park on September 16 and a good old-fashioned clambake at the home of Brian Judge and Sarah Siegel on September 19. Don't miss the opportunity to see old acquaintances and meet new friends!

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in *Inside Singletree*!

Your neighborhood magazine would not be possible without you!



Holly Proctor | Area Director
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SEPTEMBER contributors

We want to hear from you: **Your** passions, experiences and achievements! *INSIDE Singletree* is not possible without your active and enthusiastic participation – no contribution is too small. Please consider contributing a story featuring your family, pets, kids, travel adventures, athletic accomplishments or volunteer activities in upcoming issues – please email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to participate in your neighborhood publication. Thank you!



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Allie Decent
Resident Writer



Jason and Kelly Platt
Meet Your Neighbors



Christopher Dunn
Kids' Corner



Thomas Dekanich
Athlete Spotlight



Sharon Kushner and Dan Brajtbord
Home of the Month



Rohn Robbins
Travel Tales



Lily Krohn
Precious Pets



Kris and Mike Krohn
Precious Pets



Pam Beaudin
Who's Making a Difference

you are invited

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY: *BATTLE OF THE BLOCKS*

Sunday, September 16, 2018
Chip Ramsay Park, Singletree
4:00 p.m.

Join us to kick off the school year with your fellow Singletree residents for a little neighborhood rivalry and a lot of fun! Family events may include:

- 3 Legged, Hula Hoop and Wheelbarrow Races
- Water Balloon or Egg Toss
- Disk Frisbee or Basketball Free Throw Contest

Bring the entire family for an exciting afternoon of friendly community competition! Food and beverages for all ages will be served.

RSVP for your family with your street address by Tuesday, September 11, 2018, to insidesingletreersvp@gmail.com or 303-859-3369. Teams will be formed by neighborhood blocks based on family registrations.

END-OF-SUMMER *CLAMBAKE*

Wednesday, September 19, 2018
Graciously hosted at the home of
Brian Judge and Sarah Siegel
11 Buckboard Road
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Who says you can't wear white after Labor Day? Don your summer whites and join your friends and neighbors to toast to the end of summer in style. Clams, corn, accoutrements and beverages will be served. Please bring a side dish to share!

RSVP by Thursday, September 13, 2018, to insidesingletreersvp@gmail.com or 303-859-3369.

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meet your neighbors

Photography by Olga Barron Photography Inc

Jason, Kelly, Mathias and Auggie PLATT



The crab apple tree in front of our humble home in Singletree has become a central place for our family. In the springtime, it blossoms with sweet smells of pinks, whites and purples. The bees begin buzzing and a new song fills the air, signaling the beginning of warm weather. As the grass under the tree livens and the morning sun warms up the earth, our family gathers under the tree for picnics, playing, and making that mad dash scramble to get everything in the car for the next activity.

Once fall hits, the crab apples turn to an annoying obstacle and the brilliance that came with the spring turns sour. Our family turns our attention away and tries to hit the trails, in search of a golden aspen leaf single track. When nearly all the crab apples are gone and the tree's leaves have fallen, our view of Arrowhead is revealed. Our attention turns to uphill winter travel and building snow caves in the backyard. Every single tree in Singletree has a story, and surprisingly, every tree can actually be accounted for! Our story is only three years under these branches, but it hasn't always been like this.

Kelly was raised near St Louis and I was born in Loveland. While our upbringings were very different, we both moved to Vail Valley independent of one another in 2005. Kelly moved here to work at Howard Head Sports Medicine as an occupational/hand therapist. In her first year of work, she recalls several long time local patients telling her how they had no intention of staying in the valley long and yet ended up doing so. Kelly's response was always "That won't be me, I won't be staying long!"



In 2008, Kelly was invited by her co-worker to go to Calvary Chapel Vail Valley. This was a huge turning point in her life as she put her faith in Jesus Christ and began seeing and living life differently than before. One of the biggest differences was that she now had a community of people that felt like family. Being a single working professional in Vail Valley, this piece of community gave her a reason to stay and invest in other people. She put down roots, distanced herself from empty pursuits, and bought an 800 square foot condo in Miller Ranch.

I, on the other hand, moved to East Vail in 2005 to leave my family in Loveland, and put some distance between me and a church ministry position that was pointing to burnout. I searched the country for a discipleship program. Discipleship is similar to mentoring but it has a much more personal feel to it and is a word that has long time been used as a teacher teaching a student. I found two of these types of discipleship houses. One in California and one in East Vail, called the Sanctuary House.

After a phone interview and a visit to the house, I moved to the mountains and began a journey that has led to driving taxis, teaching preschoolers in Golden Peak, guiding with Meet the Wilderness, volunteering with SOS, and helping with Eagle River Youth Coalition. Throughout all of these ventures, I have returned the favor and have done my own type of discipleship, working primarily at Trinity Church and networking with churches across the valley to inspire and help teenagers through the difficult teen ages.

It is at this crossroad of our church communities that our friend Gregory played matchmaker. As a ploy to get Kelly and me together, he formed a four-person team for the mountain bike race, 18 Hours of Fruita. Unknown to the two of us, our first training ride through Colorado National Monument became an unofficial date and nearly a year later we were married at the Beaver Creek Chapel. Fast forward a year and we had our first son, Mathias. We soon realized that our condo would have a hard time fitting

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all of our bikes, baby gear, and everything else that comes with the adventures of an active lifestyle. A year and a half later, we were pregnant with our second boy August (Auggie) and the hunt for a new home led us across I-70.

In the summer of 2015 we first walked under the towering shade trees of Persimmon Woods and the crab apple tree growing in front of #16. With much relief that we actually found a place that the two of us could agree upon, we moved in to Singletree.

Auggie has never lived anywhere but here and he is currently 2. Mathias recently turned 5 and nearly all of his memories, including the Stryder bike race for his 4th birthday party, have been here in this community. So what has life looked like these past three years here?

We are an active and visible family, spending a lot of time outside. Most likely you have seen our boys on our front porch steps playing or cheering on bikers, "Allez! Allez!" When the trash truck comes, the driver gives a special honk to the two boys on the steps and nearly every lawnmower gets an exclamation, "There's a mower, that's my favorite one!" We love the access to trails in Singletree and we had no idea how much we would love these trails until we moved here.

Knob Hill is a weekly favorite as I have found a new passion in running and enjoy linking up trails with Mesquite and other Avon preserve trails. Thank you to the many people who have volunteered time and energy to build these trails and continue to maintain them. Thank you to the many people who slow down for the hikers, bikers, and my kids on the side of the road. We are all fortunate to live in such a beautiful place with such great access to mountain trails.

We have also enjoyed getting to know people in Singletree. We've had many connections prior to living here. We've been part of an amazing 4th of July celebration for the last several years at the Perry's. Our absolute favorite restaurant, Juniper, has Singletree roots. Since living here, we have enjoyed meeting new people. In Persimmon Woods specifically, we have the best neighbors around and are excited for our boys to grow up in this neighborhood.

And what do the next three years look like for us? It's hard to imagine as we can't even predict the dryness of a summer or even what new branch is going to grow on the crab apple tree. But with the sights and sounds of this community and people who make up this neighborhood, the future looks bright. Not to mention, we'll be past the diaper stage and moving into school, riding bikes, swimming in the pool, and maybe even getting to the top of Knob Hill without anyone getting a free ride in a backpack! Our next season won't be spent sitting under the branches of the crab apple tree, but more likely exploring and watching as our two boys grow and climb to new heights.



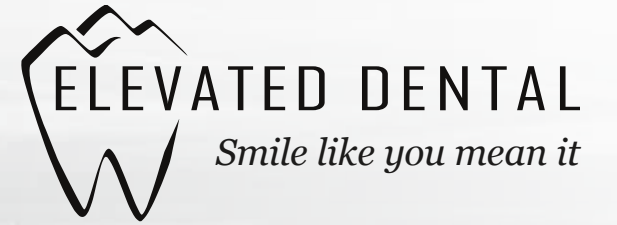
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singletree social Photography by Olga Barron Photography Inc.

On June 26, the residents of Singletree were treated to an exclusive pre-concert mixer at the Borgen Family Patron's Plaza sponsored by **INSIDE Singletree** and the **Vail Valley Foundation**. The bluebird afternoon was ideal for mixing and mingling with friends and neighbors, new and old, while enjoying sliders, cole slaw and potato salad presented by **Big Delicious**. The community social was the perfect prelude to the Moe's Original Barbecue Hot Summer Nights performance featuring the bluegrass sound of the WinterWondergrass All-Stars.



We would like to express our appreciation to the Vail Valley Foundation for their generous hospitality, with a special thank you to Mike Imhof, President, as well as Emily Sessler and Tanya Hipple in Development. We would also like to thank Sean McRee and his staff at Gore Creek Concessions for providing the beverage service.

The Vail Valley Foundation is a non-profit organization that seeks to enhance and sustain the quality of life in the Vail Valley by providing leadership in the arts, athletics and education. Visit their website at vvf.org or call 970-777-2015 to learn more about their events, programs and ways to get involved. ●●●



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- Singletree Property Owners Association (SPOA) requires duplexes to maintain matching roofing, deck railings, paint colors, etc. SPOA also requires duplex mate sign-off on proposed changes that require Design Review approval.

Good Neighbors Make for Great Neighborhoods!

Calendar

September 9 – Riverfront Ramblers performing bluegrass music at the Singletree Community Center from 4 to 6 pm.

October 28 – Singletree Halloween Party from 4 to 6 PM at the Community Center. Bring your pumpkin, come on down and carve it with your friends and neighbors. Candy & drinks served!

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Do you have a pet? Dakota. She's a Bernese Mountain Dog and I love her!

What is your favorite thing to do? Hockey, football, and lacrosse! I love that you get to check kids in hockey; I like that I can get my aggression out in a sport. It's hard being a little brother sometimes. In the summer, I like to go scootering.

Where do you like to go to play? WEC-MRD, water parks in Denver, at the Great Wolf Lodge, and in high school football stadiums. I like to play legos with my friend, Wyatt, and hockey outside; and I like to go onto my neighbor's trampoline.

kids' corner

Contributed by **Christopher Dunn**,
Singletree Resident
Written by **Allie Decent**,
Singletree Resident
Article Sponsored by
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What is your favorite toy? My PS4. I like that there's Minecraft on it. There are no levels in Minecraft, you just build things, it's pretty great! And I like my electric dirt bike. I go up and down the street with it.

If you could change one thing in the world what would you change? I would change the world to make cars that could fly. I would want to stay alive forever, and uh, that's it.

What's your favorite movie of all time? "Rookie of the Year" because a kid slipped on a ball and broke his arm and when he got better his bicep got tight and he could throw really really fast and far and got to play pitcher for The Cubs.

Where did you go on your spring break this year? That vacation we went on to Mexico! We went on ATV rides to a waterfall and we also played video games. We stayed at our grandparents' house in Cabo. We would get up and go fishing every morning with my Dad.

What else do you like to do on vacation? Hmm... sometimes we go to Hawaii, (Kawaii). We surf, boogie board, and snorkel. I like seeing a lot of fish.

What do you like to do at Cordy Camp? I love dodgeball and playing in the pool.



What is your favorite thing about sleepaway camp? I did the Blob, water sliding, rifling and archery. The Blob is a big giant thing filled with air on the water and you jump on it and then you go all the way to the end and the guy jumps on it and he launches you up into the air and into the lake. I was there for one week [Eagle Lake Camp].

What do you love the most about your family? I love that we get to go on a lot of trips.



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home
of the
month

Contributed by Sharon
Kushner and Dan
Brajtbord, Singletree
Residents

Written by
Allie Decent, Singletree
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a Simple Repair

BECOMES A LIFESTYLE REMODEL



“Hi! C’mon in!” Sharon welcomes me with a big smile. The sheer size of the space I enter is quite a surprise, as the adobe home’s entryway and garage is a one-story as seen from the exterior. The home clutches the hillside, with sweeping views from every corner of the wide open living area. Ceilings 30 feet high and a wall of windows to match facing southwest must mean there are awesome parties at sunset here.

Dan Brajtbord and Sharon Kushner moved here from Dallas in 2011 when Dan took a job as an anesthesiologist in Vail. The couple married, and having rented a place in West Vail, then decided to look for a home with more of a community. “We settled on Singletree because it’s just the best place we could be for what we wanted,” says Sharon. “In fact, this was the first house we looked at, and we didn’t buy it!” she laughs.

They looked at homes for months after first seeing 341 Foal Circle, but couldn’t find anything they liked as much as this location. “So we put in an offer, took out all the heavy southwest beams that broke up the large space, and here we are!” she smiles, opening her arms wide to the room. “We figured out that the massive round pine beams weren’t weight-bearing at all and we could move them all and modernize the space completely,” she remarks. “Three truckloads of timber were hauled away, and we never looked back.”


They jumped into more renovations earlier than planned when, just two months after closing, there was a huge leak in the roof and the floor between the kitchen and living room was destroyed. “Since they couldn’t find the original flooring to match, we decided to redo the entire floor with this dark wide-plank wood, and once that was done, we thought about everything else we wanted to do,” Sharon recalls. The couple decided they wanted to fix the master bathroom and closet to make it more of a functional and open space to complement the now very open living, dining and den areas.

“All we wanted to do was put a door on the master shower that was originally glass block and privatize the commode,” she explains. “But as you can clearly see, we ended up doing an entire remodel!” she laughs, and I gaze in awe around me. The bathroom is thoughtfully redone in a modern style that still manages to stay comfortable. The wall of white that could have been is thoughtfully broken up with texture created by metal and wood accents, giving the space a warm feel that is simultaneously masculine and feminine. Designer Emily Kearl pulled it all together with wide white herringbone tile which is complemented by the matching herringbone-laid barn door separating the closet from the bathroom space. “Oh, and Paul did this door, he hand made it!” Sharon exclaims while lovingly petting the textured feature.

The couple worked with designer/contractor duo Emily Kearl (M.E. Design Studio) and Paul Stege (Sundial Construction). “We got their name from our friends, Maureen and Wing Mayer, whose remodel turned out so perfect. My husband jokes that this experience was the most expensive two bathroom doors he’s ever purchased!” she laughs. “Once you start, it’s like, well we have to pull up the floor to do it right, so then you have to do a whole new floor. While we are at it, let’s get a luxury item like this metal Japanese stacking tub. Then, while we are in there, we might as well do the closet! And it just went on and on,” Sharon states.

The door has its own unique story, and as a focal piece that unites the rooms, its creation needs to be shared. “Paul specifically chose the wood for the barn door as pine. He built the door, he and his father. They are amazing carpenters. We didn’t have any wood from the backsplash left over. He put together a solution of vinegar, copper pennies, and steel wool. Let it sit overnight and then applied the solution to the door and then blowtorched it to get the effect of old barn wood. I think it’s just beautiful,” Sharon sighs.

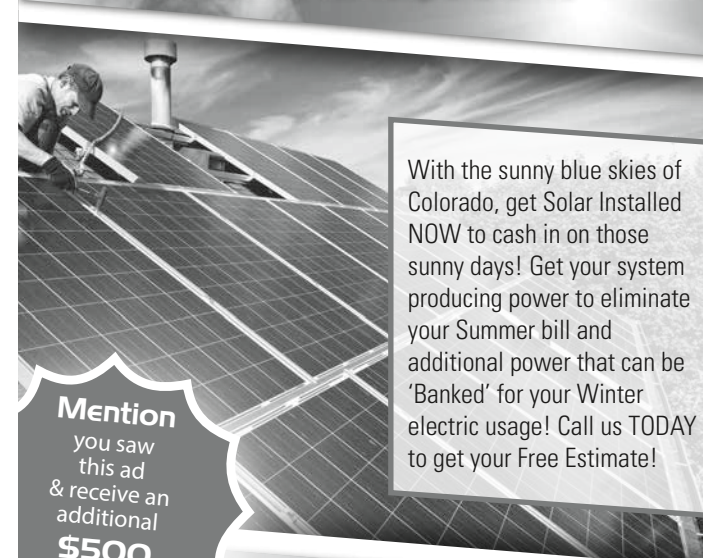
The result of all that hard work is quite stunning indeed. A shiplap wall behind the backlit mirrors and hard white counters happily marries hard and soft, resulting in an effect that is quite pleasing to the senses. This, I think, truly feels like a spa at home. Natural elements reign supreme here, and I know that Sharon and Dan’s plans for the rest of the house will create a home that truly brings the outside in. “The environment inspires me. We tried to bring in the greens and oranges and colors of the sea and nature. We live in such a beautiful place; we love the open floor plan. And Dan says we can’t do anything more for at least another year!” I think the house is perfect already.

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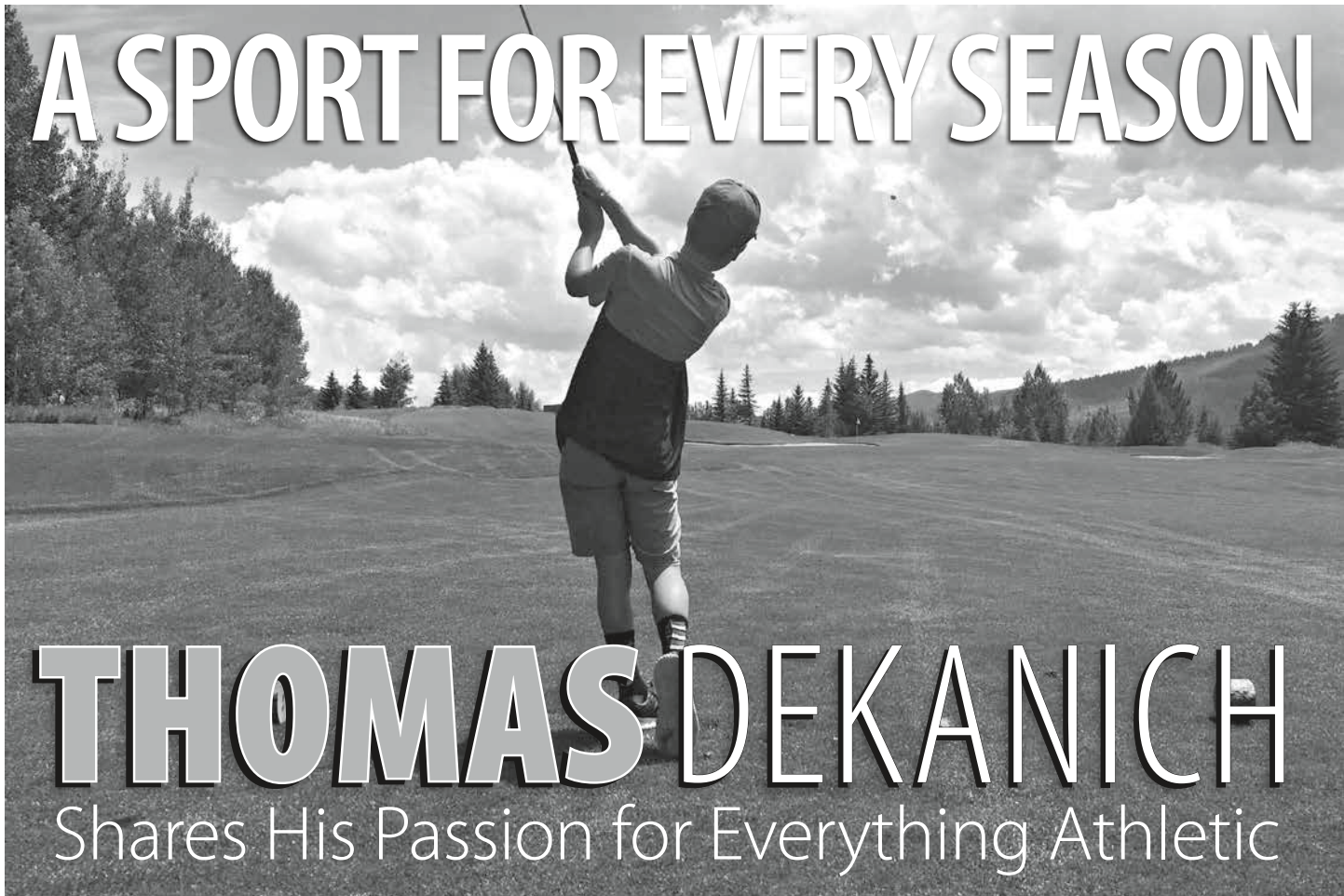


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athlete spotlight

Contributed by **Thomas Dekanich**, Singletree Resident
 Article Sponsored by **Coleman Custom Homes**

When I asked Robin Litt, the Events & Marketing Manager at the Sonnenalp Club, for the name of a junior golfer to feature in the Athlete Spotlight for this month, Robin did not hesitate to suggest Thomas Dekanich. When I met Thomas at the Sonnenalp Pool one afternoon, little did I know that I was about to talk with such a humble well-rounded young athlete, who not only excels at the game of golf, but participates competitively in lacrosse and basketball as well, enjoys skiing and any activity on the water, and to top it off, earned his black belt at the age of 12. Here is what Thomas shared with me about his athletic activities...

How old are you and what grade are you entering this year? I am 13 and going into the 7th grade at ECCA (Eagle County Charter School).

When did you start playing golf? My dad always played and I started going in the golf cart when I was a baby, really small. I probably started playing when I was about 3.

What turned you on to liking golf? My mom signed me up and I thought I would give it try. When Chad was here, he really inspired me to golf more. Then I actually really started to like it. He was really happy, and for every practice, there was something fun and there was a lot of candy involved, which is always good.

Who has inspired you in golf? Tanner Crisofulli. And Coach Paul from Cordillera was really fun and really good at golf.

And what about pro players? Jordan Spieth.

What is your strength in golf? Hitting my 6 or 8 iron. For my drive, most of the time I can hit it far; my farthest drive is about 230 yards.

What is the worst part of your game? Hitting my 5 or 3 wood.

What do you enjoy about the game today? It's a fun sport when you

know how to play. Sometimes I like just going out and walking 9 holes by myself.

What advice do you have for young players who are interested in golf? It's not an easy sport to learn. It's all mental; if you think you can't hit it, then you won't. But if you stick with it, and if you will take advice from people, you will end up being good at golf.

What other sports do you play? In the winter I play basketball. Two years ago, I started with the WECMRD team, and last year, I was on the 6th grade team at ECCA. I had a great time and I just can't wait for this year!

What position do you play? Point guard or right wing.

And in the spring? I play lacrosse at a pretty high competitive level. It definitely has some hard contact but I'm not really afraid of that.



What position do you play and for what team? I play for Vail Lax and this year, I am going to try out for the Denver Elite Lax team. You try out and they take the best kids from across the state and you travel all over the place. I play attack.

Tell us about earning your black belt; when did you start Taekwondo? My mom signed me up when I was 4 years old and I have earned every belt (each with multiple levels): white, yellow, orange, purple, blue, green, red, and finally black, over the past 9 years. (For those of you who are doing the math, that means Thomas has been doing Taekwondo for 75% of his life).

What is involved in achieving your black belt? It's about a 4 or 5 hour test, but to me, it felt like nothing because I did not have time to think about it. I had to break a brick. I was 12 and the youngest in my group.

That is an incredible achievement; what are you doing to celebrate? We are going to a Packer game in September. And right after that, we are going to a Badger game. It's a football weekend with my Dad!

For those who are wondering, Thomas tied for 2nd place at the Sonnenalp Junior Club Championship with a score of 39 that Sunday after I met him. He is one of four players selected to play in the PGA Junior League All Stars at Coal Creek in Louisville, CO on August 19. Good luck Thomas! Singletree is cheering for you in all of your athletic endeavors!

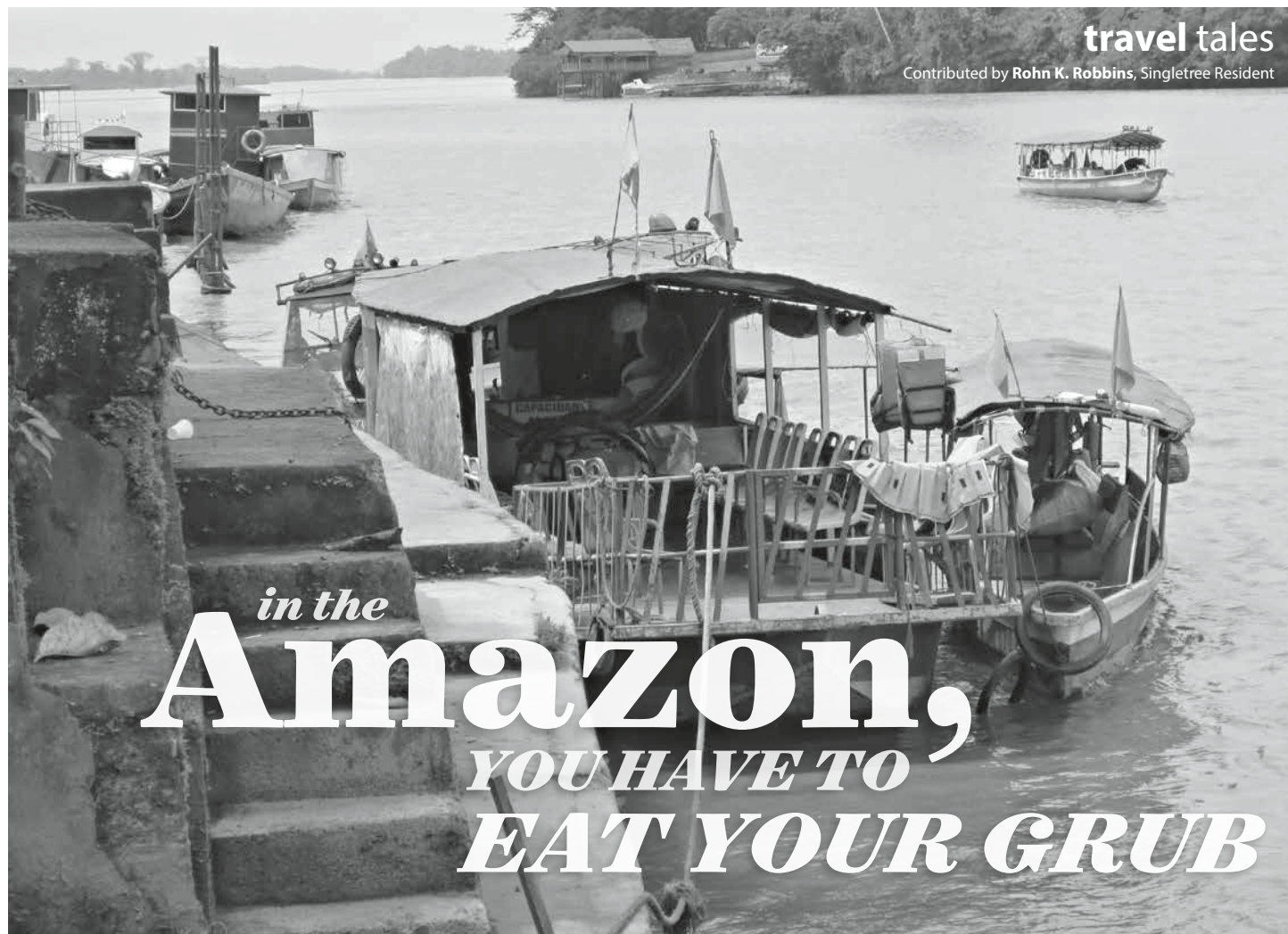


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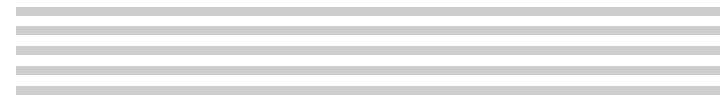
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in the
Amazon,
YOU HAVE TO
EAT YOUR GRUB

The jumping off point: the wharf at Coca



Jumping Off

From Quito, Ecuador, the highest altitude capital in the world, to El Coca is a thirty minute flight. And a century back in time. Coca is a sleepy oil town carved from the Amazon jungle. It is hot and sultry with humidity that pools in your shoes.

The tiny wharf at Coca, hard against the Napo River—a major tributary to the mighty Amazon—accommodates a half-dozen or so motorized canoes which stretch about 60 feet long and reach perhaps 10 feet wide. This would be our sweaty jumping off point for a two-and-half-hour, decidedly-not-luxury “cruise” into the deep of the jungle.

So thick is the jungle growth that lines the river, to find the dock where we would land 45 miles from the last semblance of civilization, a practiced eye was required. We had dodged sandbars as broad as football fields and nearly indistinguishable from the impenetrable muddy waters to arrive at... well... who knew exactly where?



The winding tributary to La Selva

“Arrive” perhaps overstates it. There was a rickety dock, two shacks—one a staging area, the other an outhouse—and a muddy track 100 yards long and as wide as two of my wingspans. This led to another impossibly tiny dock with three paddle canoes (think Pocahontas) that would carry us another half hour up a narrow winding tributary to Garzacochoa Lagoon (Heron Lagoon in English) in the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve within which was situated the La Selva Ecolodge which, except for the primeval jungle, stood entirely alone. The lodge, which consisted of 23 single-room thatch-roofed cabins, a central meeting room and a dining hall, would be our home.



Rohn and Deb Robbins in Quito, Ecuador

Home

At the foot of the lodge is the beautiful and imposing Garzacochoa Lagoon which, besides an unimaginable aviary of exotic birds coursing overhead, is packed to (dare I say it?) the gills with piranhas, caiman, electric eels, and other things that go splash in the night. Like many things that live in the jungle, “big” is in. Some of the fish here grow to 6 feet and more and breach like small whales. Also, like everything else in the jungle, the trees and vines that edge the lake are simply uncountable.

During our stay, we had a naturalist guide and a native guide—a Kichwa named Ramón—and we would soon learn from Lúis, the naturalist, his favorite phrase; “It’s different.” As the days went by, every time we thought we were “getting it”, every time we thought we recognized a particular kind of tree, or bird, or flower, frog, toad, or insect, Lúis would smile patiently and say, “It’s different.” With more than 1700 kinds of trees, as many or more kinds of flowers, more species of birds in more shapes and colors than Dr. Seuss could ever imagine, and insects so numerous and varied that science has not yet added them all up, it was little wonder. Then there were the monkeys from the teacup-sized pygmy marmosets to the howling howlers. And yeah... every one was “different.”

Our first night in the Amazon, under a star-filled sky (in the deep of the deep of the Amazon jungle



Rohn and Deb with their son, Parke, and his girlfriend, Kayla, crossing over the top of the Andes to get from the coast to head inland to the Ecuadorian Amazon

there is no light pollution to muck up the celestial display and, as Ecuador is... duh... on the equator, both the Milky Way and the Southern Cross are visible), manned with flashlights, we paddled out in a canoe to look for caiman and dive-bombing bats. No problema; they were everywhere.

After a night’s sleep under mosquito netting, we were up before dawn, back in the canoe and back to the Napo to witness the spectacle of the clay “lick” where every morning, presumably since the dawn of time, teaming parrots, macaws, and parakeets in a bright palate of beaks and feathers, enjoy a morning repast of clay on a particular, presumably tasty, vertical hillside. Next, we were off to see the Kichwa.

Among the Kichwa

The Kichwa are indigenous to the Ecuadorian Amazon and although civilization is finding them, they live and hunt and eat much as they always have. Blowguns “armed” with the toxins of a poison frog (one of which we would later catch and then release) along with spears and every-ready machetes, make up their armaments. We were guided through the village, through their jungle gardens, their communal kitchen and were treated to a small meal.

On the plate was a small piece of grilled fish, yucca, plantains, a humita (corn cake wrapped in banana leaf), and a grilled palm grub roughly the size and shape of a Vienna sausage with a body the color of a mango and an evil-looking back head with formidable mandibles. Before skewering them and throwing them on the open-pit fire, they passed a writhing bowl of them around. They felt like rubbery muscles, all motion and contraction.

In case you care, a grilled palm grub tastes like... well... chicken. To be precise, it tastes like salty, fatty, crisped chicken skin. Oh, by the way, you hold it by the head and do not eat that nasty bit. Anyway, to be polite, you’ve got to eat your grub. Yum!



You Will Get Wet and You Will Get Bitten

Into every rain forest, a little rain must fall. Or sometimes, a lot of rain must fall. It comes straight down in sheets. The jungle tracks are always muddy and, oh yeah, the fifty zillion insects love a little tepid rain forest floor jazz. It rains at least part of every day—often for only half-an-hour or so—and you will get bitten. And bitten again. And then bitten yet again, both by the beauty of the rainforest and the nibbly things that want to add you to the menu. And, fair warning, DEET is no match for the endless biting flying, creeping, crawling battalions. In this arms war, the bugs have clearly won.

From the Observation Tower

An hour or so before sunset, we trekked to the observation deck, an Erector Set-like structure anchored by a massive tree and reaching 150 or so feet into the air, above most—but not all—of the canopy. We stayed until after sunset, Luís pointing out a dizzying array of birds and monkeys including Toucans, Howacin that huff loudly like desperate asthmatics, turquoise-colored Tanagers, Kites, yellow-headed woodpeckers, and too many more to list. Then back along the muddy track in our mid-calf-high rubber boots (an absolute must in jungle sartorialism) with our flashlights, finding frogs, toads, snails bigger than your hand, scorpions, spiders, and jungle shadows of which your imagination can make anything.

Hiking Through the Jungle

Over the next few days, we went for several treks through the jungle, most days starting just after sunrise then back before noon, for fishing, yoga on the dock of the lagoon, and kayaking and then back out around 4:00 to hike again until sunset which, year-round comes at 6:15. Dinner, a much needed shower, and then off to sleep.

One afternoon, my son, Parke, and I went fishing and—not surprisingly—he caught a devil-eyed piranha. Of the four of us out in the canoe, we scored two piranha and the other two of us fed the hungry little demons from our hooks.

The next afternoon, my wife, Debbie, and I kayaked under a melting sun with “melting-er” humidity, in utterly still waters teeming with piranha, caiman and turtles while a stunning tableau of trees and flowers surrounded us, birds whizzed overhead, and buzzing things as big as small aircraft inspected us at close range.

On our treks through the jungle, we saw community spiders that live in the hundreds in a “bowl” spun of spider silk with tendrils of their web cast a dozen feet in all directions, legions of tree cutter ants that live to work, bringing leaf cuttings ten times their size to their nest (the size of a children’s swimming pool) to mulch the fungus that they farm and eat, a poison dart frog about the size of a quarter, snakes sleeping in the tree limbs, and mushrooms as bright and colorful as a brilliant sunrise. One morning’s hike, we earned our way to Hyacinth Lake (photo of Hyacinth Lake) where a small canoe stashed by the Ecolodge was waiting, and we paddled all alone among the stunning scenery. In the afternoon, we hiked to another heading, looking for—and finding—a troop of pygmy marmoset monkeys, so tiny that two adults could fit in the palm of your hand with room to spare.



The view of the jungle canopy from the observation tower



Snails bigger than your hand



Parke's devil eyed piranha

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UC	220 Singletree Road (SF)	\$1,395,000	N/A	N/A	\$319	N/A	5	5 (3 2 0)	4,370	No
UC	160 Charolais Circle (DU)	\$1,239,000	N/A	N/A	\$385	N/A	4	5 (3 1 1)	3,215	No
UC	825 Charolais Circle (SF)	\$1,175,000	N/A	N/A	\$312	N/A	5	4 (4 0 0)	3,762	No
*UC	101 Pinto Dr #A-0 (DU)	\$1,149,000	N/A	N/A	\$335	N/A	4	5 (3 1 1)	3,435	Full
UC	158 Charolais Circle (DU)	\$1,075,000	N/A	N/A	\$358	N/A	4	5 (4 0 1)	3,000	Partial
UC	331 Rawhide Road (SF)	\$1,025,000	N/A	N/A	\$292	N/A	4	3 (3 0 0)	3,512	No
UC	123 Buckboard Road #B (DU)	\$969,000	N/A	N/A	\$466	N/A	3	3 (2 0 1)	2,081	No
UC	28 Charolais Circle (DU)	\$799,999	N/A	N/A	\$390	N/A	3	3 (2 0 1)	2,051	No
*Sold	347 Longhorn Road (SF)	\$1,190,000	\$1,057,000	7/13/18	\$266	\$236	5	5 (3 1 1)	4,474	No
Sold	1121 Berry Creek Road #D1 (CO)	\$695,000	\$685,000	7/5/18	\$401	\$395	3	2 (2 0 0)	1,734	No
Sold	260 Singletree Road #A (DU)	\$615,000	\$604,032	7/5/18	\$383	\$376	2	3 (2 0 1)	1,605	No

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...

The jungle is even thicker than a befuddled politician. The tracks that count as trails are easily lost and quickly overgrown. Without our expert keepers, we might still be out there, a tasty treat for the puma, peccaries, creepy-crawly things, and withering humidity. But the rewards are many: the sights, perfumed smells, abundant natural foods (with a long stick, you can bring down a guaba, long churro-looking pods with delicious white fruit inside), muddy soil the color of fresh tar, and more species of plants and animals that you could spend counting in a dedicated lifetime.

Not to Be Missed

Although the Amazon Jungle is not a day at the spa—days start early, and the weather can be like a wet wool blanket wrapped about you under a heat lamp—the Amazon is not to be missed. It is a thing of beauty, a thing of wonder.

Put it on your bucket list. When you're there—marveling at all its many splendors—be sure to say "hey" to the friendly Kichwa. And to be polite, remember; you've got to eat your grub.



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HOW MUCH *IS THAT DOGGIE* in the Window?

precious pets

Contributed by **Kris, Mike and Lily Krohn**,
Singletree Residents and Pet
Article Sponsored by **Top Dog Properties**



“Pick me! Pick me! Pick me!” I wished every time Mike and Kris visited the pet store in Denver to get their puppy fix after losing their schnauzer. Finally, after seeing Adorable Me for four weeks in the window, they figured out they didn’t really want that Yorkie they thought they wanted, they really wanted to take ME home to Singletree. And I fit right in right away!

I am a Miniature Schnauzer and I weigh about 13 pounds. Mom and Dad own a home building business called Rusty Spike Enterprises and they almost named me “Spike”. But then they realized that I am way too darn cute to be a “spike”, so they named me Lily. Nine years later, I still have Mommy and Dad wrapped around my little paw.

Every morning, after a luxurious night of sleeping on the bed with Mom and Dad, I jump down from the bed and run to the goodies closet and bark to let them know “Look! I woke up! I am here!” Even though I am supposed to go outside to go potty before Mommy gives me a treat, I get one before I go outside and then, another when I come back inside. That way, I have Mommy trained and I double down on the treats. I really am a Mommy’s girl.

I love going to work with Mommy. She runs the business while Dad is out working on a project, and I lie on my blankie on my bed under her desk and keep her company. Sometimes I wander upstairs to guard the front door and patrol for chipmunks. Or I like to lounge on the beds in the one of the bedrooms and look at the views; it’s really pretty from Las Vistas where we live.

After Mommy finishes her work, we like to go for a hike. One of my favorite trails is the North Trail in Potato Patch. That is where my best friend, Izzy, a little blonde chihuahua poodle lives. When I walk through Singletree, I run into any open doors or garages to see if anyone might like a little kiss from me! My other best friends are Kai, who is a miniature poodle, and Joey, a golden retriever. I really like to play with other small dogs and I just don’t like it when dogs play too rough. I bark and bark in my highest voice to tell them to “Stop it”!

When we are back home, Mommy and Dad particularly love it when they are watching TV and I try to get their attention by barking and throwing a toy at them. “Look at me! Look how cute I am!” I just don’t want them to forget I am there so I occasionally have to remind them. And to let them know it’s time for another treat.

I have a great life here in Singletree. My Mommy and Dad cherish me and spoil me. My day is full of napping, playing and walking and there is a never-ending supply of treats. I really have it good!



Introduce your pet to the neighborhood! Email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to feature your dog, cat, fish, horse, turtle or other precious pet!



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Turning the Box INSIDE OUT

How often do we tell our employees, friends and children that they need to think outside the box? It has become so cliché and so overused and yet we don't tell them HOW to think outside the box: we just expect them to "figure it out!"

At Stone Creek Charter School (SCCS), we turn that box inside out every day through our Project Based Learning (PBL) program. We teach problem-solving, collaboration, idea development, critical thinking, reflection, revision, and self-advocacy. PBL takes our students beyond their typical classroom studies; allowing them to find their own creative voice and discover paths for taking action in the world. This process inspires students to design, manage and share their creative solutions.

At SCCS, we incorporate the elements of PBL into all of our disciplines. This inquiry-based approach challenges students to further develop their ideas through rich and compelling questions to drive learning. As the learning unfolds, students emerge as better writers, presenters, and speakers.

As a result, children receive a 360 view of the topics studied providing a more in-depth examination of the subject matter. Not only can a project endure the length of middle school but also a portfolio is built demonstrating the depth of the work and the knowledge earned in the process.

Students have shared with us that this unique approach to learning allows them to explore their interests in a judgment-free environment and inspires them to collaborate with their fellow students. Go see what our students have to say about PBL in their Ted Talk on YouTube, "World Ready Citizens | Mikela Tarlow & Stone Creek Charter Students | TEDxVail."

Come learn more about how our students are inspired every day, tearing the boxes apart, looking at them from every perspective, reconfiguring them and constructing them into a completely new contraption.



Stone Creek Charter School is a K-8th grade independent, public charter school in Eagle County. Through small class sizes, SCCS fosters an intimate and invested learning environment throughout the Valley with two campuses – Edwards and Gypsum. Our students are supported and challenged to learn and grow in and out of the classroom through fieldwork, service and adventure. For more information see our website www.stonecreekschool.org.

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who's making a difference

Contributed by Pam Beaudin, Singletree Resident



When you walk into a dark room, the first thing you typically do is search for the switch to turn on a light. Imagine never being able to have that luxury...no switch, no light. Then, you meet a Rotarian.

In July of 2017, I had the honor and privilege to travel high into the mountains of India along with my husband Denis, and Aspen Rotarian Heidi Hoffman. We had assigned ourselves the task of assisting in the installation of solar power for a small village in the Ladakh mountain range of the Himalayans. A task that we were only able to accomplish due to the various Rotary club donations, Rotary district grant funds, and Rotary global grant funds.

Skumpata (located at approx. 13,500 feet above sea level) is a village with a population of 109 people, sharing 11 homes, and has been in existence for hundreds of years. They are in an area where their location physically prohibits amenities such as power lines and vehicle access. They, along with over 100 other villages in their geographical area, are not an easy trek, by my definition, although Skumpata is certainly easier than others who still await power.

Upon arrival to the city of Leh, India (approx. 11,500 ft.), we were briefed on the upcoming trek, material transport logistic, power grid installed and our 2 day forced altitude acclimation process. Of course, living at 7,400 ft. and actively hiking our beautiful local Colorado Mountains, I thought this to be more than enough time to ready myself for ascending. Note to self: You need the time to acclimate!!

After our high altitude acclimation, our two-vehicle caravan started an 8+ hour drive, to (literally) the end of the road, where we were met by villagers with small horses. The horsepower was needed to help with the large amount of supplies to be transported (by foot) to the village. Not only was there wiring, heavy batteries, light bulbs, and tools to be hauled by the horses, we also had large and fragile solar panels that needed to be carried by a person. Fortunately, the village electricians who were newly educated in their trade, and were familiar with the trek were there and had the strength to carry the panels. It was a very long yet beautiful and adventurous day.



As we approached the village, we were met by two very excited, and shy, children who showed us the way to their village. There we were met by a ceremonial line of welcoming village women. We had many "blessings", and felt very blessed.

The villagers were happy to show us around, feed us, drink tea, feed us more, and drink more tea. They were full of smiles which was enough to overcome any language barrier. They knew why we were there...to provide electricity to their village. We had no time to waste. We needed our rest for that evening to get started the next morning. We also had more trekking scheduled for the next afternoon.

We visited three villages altogether. First was a village where Rotary (another part of our club project) was scheduled to install one of three innovation centers, which was completed just a couple of months ago. These are basically computer labs at the schools. The labs allow teachers internet access via satellite, and the villages learn business as they allow trekkers that stop the use of the in-



ternet for a fee. Kids gain computer knowledge and have access to programs that help with their research and homework. That was a short stay during the 8-hour drive as we were on schedule to get to the trailhead while there was still light. We met the children and saw where they were going to place the computers once installed.

The second village was where we installed the solar panels/energy. We stayed there one night, worked on the panels, then went on to a monastery where there was a school which already had one of the innovation centers up and successfully running. We actually stayed at the monastery where we witnessed early morning prayer, which was an unbelievable experience!

We then went back to Skumpata, had the light ceremony at their village monastery and then spent another night before heading out early the next morning. All in all, we drove to over 18,000 feet and actually trekked over a 14,750-foot peak. When we went back to the city, we just happened to be there when the Dalai Lama was scheduled for his teachings. We had the honor to be able to attend and ended up being just 8 feet away from him!

The work, the lights, the ceremony, the families, and the excitement was enough to prompt me to encourage any and all to join in and venture to another village (there are plenty still in need) for electrification. Just be prepared to travel over two 16,000 foot passes, and to trek. It's worth every step, ache, pain and smile!

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Rotary or the opportunity to participate in the electrification adventure, please feel free to contact me at pjb@medicalclaimsadvocates.com.



Are you passionate about a special cause? Do you know someone who is committed to a particular non-profit or charity? Email holly.proctor@n2pub.com to recognize the people in your community who are making a difference.



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Collaborating to Make Your Dream Home a Reality!

A collage of interior design images. The main image shows a modern living and dining area with a staircase. The living area has a large window, a sofa, and a coffee table. The dining area has a white table and chairs. The staircase has a black metal railing. There is also a smaller inset image showing a man and a woman standing on the staircase.

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