



Team Journal – Part 13

Tuesday 24th August

We were all up for an 8 a.m. breakfast - a chilly morning (we are at 8,500 or so feet). After breakfast 14 of us headed down to the stables for our morning trek. There was a slight hiatus while a steed sturdy enough to carry Nigel was found. Since about half the party had never been on a horse before there was an air of apprehension which quickly dissipated when we headed off and realised that the horses knew what was expected of them. We went up the trail to the peculiar rock formations called, locally, dykes (tall, thin walls of rock). Meanwhile another 4 headed down to the skeet range for a morning of clays and archery. We all met back at noon for an excellent lunch of chilli and freshly baked chocolate chip cookies.



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An unexpected sight - your correspondent on a horse



The horsemen on a dyke.



David Luckman breaks into a canter -
it is not clear whether the idea came from him or the horse

After lunch the team split into a golfing four, a fishing party and walkers.



The Captain has a small one on his line.

The dinner-time debrief revealed the following: Martin Millar won today's Fish Agg with 13 fish (or possibly, since he was putting them back, the same fish 13 times); the Golf Agg was won by the Vice Captain and Toby, beating Jon Cload and David Luckman into second place - however there is a steward's enquiry into the handicap system devised by the Vice Captain; Alwyn was voted the most comfortable-looking on a horse, however David Luckman's slightly out-of-control canter received special mention. In addition, the Vice Captain is claiming the Pool trophy and Toby and Ross the Table Tennis Cup. Ross has also won a special prize for a particularly vigorous cast which resulted in the breaking of a fishing rod.

Tomorrow we are here for the morning - a second horse ride is planned with some of the neophytes signing up enthusiastically. After lunch we will be leaving for Raton to get down to the serious business of the Spirit of America Matches. We have all enjoyed today - our only day of the trip with no shooting or travelling - and are also very much looking forward to getting back on the range after our high-altitude training break.