

Program: A Trip Along the Spine of the U.S.- The Rocky Mountains

Speaker: Lou Stanley – Sciencetech Club member

Guests: Ed Koolish, John Ketzenberger, Julie Segar, Andrea Pinkerton, Jeremy Horner, Carolyn & Larry Woodling

Attendance: 103

Scribe: Hank Wolfla

Editor: Bonnie Carter

Today's meeting was a travelogue presented by Lou Stanley, "A Trip Along the Spine of the U.S. - Rocky Mountains." With wonderful photographs, we traveled through the mountain states, passing by the stunning and well known National Parks, to visit some of the less visited spots from Head Smashed in Park in the north to Grapevine Canyon in the south. The Stanleys traveled the way on foot, by car, by boat, on horseback and by balloon. The trek began in Canada and ended on the boundary between the USA and Mexico.

The trip started in Writing on the Stone Provincial Park, Alberta seeing a maze of hoodoos. One of the sites they did not see was the Chinese Wall that required a hike of 53 miles one way. It would be impossible to list all the sites the members saw at the meeting, but below is partial list. Again, the quality of the photography was just wonderful, with the pictures taken at sun set or sun rise on the mountains and canyons being the most impressive. A key here is that, if traveling to these areas, the best photography seems to be in the early morning or sunset.

Colorado provided the tallest sand dunes in North America. Utah has the Bryce National Park, but another park that should not be missed was the Red Canyon National Forest. The hike in Walter's Wiggles was very impressive. Lastly, in Utah one should not miss the Goblin Valley with many strange rock formations. Arizona provides many wonderful sites, that includes the spectacular sandstone formation known as the "Wave."

Moving south to New Mexico, one should never miss the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. In the Pecos National Historical Park, a Spanish Mission was built in the 1600s. Its name is Mission Nuestra Senora de los Angelles de Porciumnula de los Pecos. The church on the site was built in 1619. A major natural attraction in Texas is the Big Bend National Park where you should not miss the iconic Balanced Rock.

Mexico provides a rival to the Grand Canyon, the Copper Canyon.

Lou did a wonderful job of describing each of the sites, while her husband Bill ran the projector and kept the slides in order of her presentation. They used a "secret" method of keeping each other on track, not disclosed.



Lou Stanley