

About me

I considered myself to be an outdoors enthusiast. Very few activities provide me with as much joy as hiking, camping, skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing, ice climbing and exploring.



This passion began in my childhood. At the young age of ten, I climbed Chief Mountain in Glacier Park, MT. At the age of twelve, with my scout troop, I did a twenty-six mile back-packing trek from Chief Mountain Customs (USA/Canada border) over Stoney Indian Pass to Goat Haunt at the head of Waterton Lakes Alberta. In 1981 & 1982 I camped and hiked in Kananaskis country Alberta, first at the Canadian Boy Scout Jamboree and again for the World Jamboree Hike Master Camp. As a teen I fished lakes and streams in Southern Alberta, and Northern Montana. In college, I took a High-Country Backpacking class.

Over the years I estimated I have hiked thousands of miles, and during these hikes I have encountered black bears, crossed paths with grizzly bears, met cougars, foxes, wolves, and coyotes. I have even been charged by a moose.

In 1993 I biked the 330-km Golden Triangle solo from Banff, Alberta through Radium and Golden BC. I have rock climbed at Stone Hill, MT, ice climbed in Ouray CO, scaled the Grand Teton, explored the Grand Canyon of Arizona, and visited the Copper Canyons of Mexico. I have been skydiving. My mother, brother and I, at the stroke of midnight, and during a snow storm, welcomed in the 21st century from the platform on Mount Crandell known as Bear's Hump in Waterton Lakes Alberta. I have white-water rafted on the Gauley River in West Virginia and the Youghiogheny River in Pennsylvania. In 2003 I completed biking the 184.5-mile-long C&O canal trail from Washington, DC to Cumberland, MD. Between August 23, 2007 and August 11, 2008 I climbed 52 peaks exceeding my goal of 40 peaks in one year! It is typical for me to get in more than 30 ski days each ski season. I have accomplished 372 mountain climbs as of year-end 2020.

Growing up in a small town I learned to do things myself. As a child I used to repair and modify my bicycle. As a teenager I worked in the summers as a construction laborer mainly in stucco, drywall, and painting. In high school I took the industrial arts classes of wood shop and mechanics. In college I started out studying engineering and found that I prefer hands-on engineering over theoretical textbook engineering. During college I worked as a plumber's assistant. I have remodeled two houses and got to rebuild both following a fire in 2014. I am constantly doing home improvement, and do-it-yourself projects. I considered myself to be a handyman.

As the Internet was just starting to take off in 1997, I taught myself how to do web development. In 2000 I went into this line of work full time, and over twenty years later I am still hard at it. The creative side of it, and the problem solving are what I enjoy. Conversely, being in an office, and sitting all day are what I do not enjoy.

I was born in the United States of America, but had the privilege of being raised in Alberta, Canada –where I spent 18 years. After high school I lived in Adelaide Australia for two years and following my graduation from University I was fortunate to work in South Korea for a full year.

From the time I left home, in 1985, until the time I purchased my first home in 2006 I lived what is termed today a “minimalist” lifestyle. With the difference being that I never went from having an excessive number of things to downsizing – instead, I simply just never owned a surplus of things. My way of living over those twenty-one years was to limit my possessions to only what was essential and to never own more things than I could fit into my car all at once – meaning I could pack up and move anytime with just an hours’ notice.

I have always been financially responsible and as such I have managed to work in phases of un-jobbing into my adult life - meaning I leave a permanent career job and go for extended periods of time (six months or more) without major, full-time employment. During un-jobbing episodes I have traveled, lived, and worked in foreign countries, remodeled houses, and explored the great outdoors. Temporary employment during these times has bounced me from short-term work at UPS, to being a house painter/drywaller, to doing warehouse production work, and even to teaching English as a second language.

I have had the privilege of traveling to many countries world-wide, taking me to the Eiffel Tower, the Great Wall of China, the monuments of Washington DC, the sights of Macau, Stonehenge, Sydney Harbor, Itaewon, Waikiki, Victoria Peak, the Statue of Liberty, Death Valley, Teotihuacan, Redwood National and State Parks, The Tower of London, as well as many more places.

As a matter of interest, I never use electronic navigation systems as I have been blessed with a keen sense of direction and a love of paper maps. In 1988 I stopped wearing a watch, yet I am never late and can typically estimate the current time to within fifteen minutes. It was 2013 before I finally broke down and got my first mobile phone and to this day I am still not a fan of them, as such I often don’t carry one around with me. I was a bachelor until the age of forty-six. I love to laugh and to make others laugh. During my school days I was the class clown, along with being the top math student of my senior class in High School and an overall good student.

How did I become a Highpointer?

With a lifelong interest in the outdoors, a sense of adventure, and the love of traveling/exploring, it was an utterly natural step for me to take on the challenge of reaching the highest point in each of the fifty US States, however it was a gradual process that evolved into a series of plans and goals. Initially I just happened upon the first few state highpoints I visited. Others, early on, I sought out because of their highpoint status but not as a formal goal of highpointing each state.

It was on my first climb of Utah's King Peak in September 2006 when I met a fellow solo hiker, who was there as a US State Highpointer, that the seed of doing forty-five more of these began to germinate.

Nearly three years later when I climbed Gannett Peak, my sixth state highpoint although the fact it is a state highpoint was not the driving. The following month I reached the highest point in Idaho seeking it out because of that label. Two weeks later, when I choose to climb Colorado's Mt. Elbert as a noteworthy mountain to be my 100th unique peak its highpoint status figured into the choice.

By 2010, I was quite interested in visiting each US State highpoint, but I still had no defined plan nor time frame by which to complete them. Being really into mountaineering, at this point in my life, the tallest, most difficult state high points were the only ones that really interested me. As such, I figured the non-mountainous high points could be saved for my golden years making my highpointing plan a long-drawn-out causal one. That year I achieved three US State highpoints, namely Mt. Hood, Mt. Rainer, and Humphreys Peak. Over the next five years I obtained nine more highpoints taking my count to twenty by mid-year 2015.

More than four years slipped away by the time I sought out my twenty-first state high point. During that time, I had finished rebuilding my home following a 2014 fire, and I had returned to work as a Software Engineer after a two-year hiatus. I completed sixty-two mountain climbs, and several other adventures over those four years but I did not have much of a desire to travel and so my state highpointing objective unintentionally slipped into hibernation. However, in August 2019 when I realized I was in danger of reaching the use or lose point of my accumulated personal time off at work, the reluctance to travel was forgotten.

Returning from the August 2019 highpointing trip, where I tagged four summits, I realized eighteen years had already slipped away from the time I had reached my first state highpoint. I decided then it would be neat to accomplish all fifty within a twenty-year time frame. As such the last quarter of that year I made two more trips adding seven more highpoints to the done list.

I planned to make a big push, for the remaining nineteen, following the winter 2019/2020 ski season. However, Mother Nature surprised the world by introducing the COVID 19 virus which hit the USA during the late winter of 2020. Many thought the pandemic would go away come summer, and so I prudently postponed making any highpointing arrangements for the spring.

Nevertheless, come summer 2020, despite the virus not letting up, I decided to take a calculated risk, and use up some airline miles. As such I increased my total count to thirty-six by August 1, 2020 with two highpointing trips. At the end of August 2020, my employer granted me a full week off in recognition of my five years of service giving me the chance to tour through the southern states picking up six more state highpoints. Come the fall of 2020 I decided to visit the remaining contiguous states thus leaving me with only the Hawaii highpoint yet to be reached.

This will need more when I complete the goal...