

# FEEDBACK (CONTINUED)

Mind you, I didn't do this hike lightheartedly. We discussed it for quite a while, recognising the dangers inherent in the situation. Of course I was concerned about hiking across 27 kilometres of desert!! 27 kilometers is almost 17 miles after all. The only option was to sit there with Stiles until rescue. Those of you who know this character may well have joined me in my quest for salvation!! However, if a vehicle came from the east, it would have to pass Jim sitting by the truck, and if it came from the west it would pass me strolling along the Gunbarrel Highway. While this is not a freeway, it is a well-defined set of wheel ruts and is easy to follow. So, if a vehicle was to have come, we were covered. It had also been raining substantially - that's why we got stuck. As it turned out there was plenty of water en route (not that I had to drink it).

Any account of a six week journey has to leave out some details. Let me fill the readers in on some of them relevant to this episode that Jim wouldn't have had the space to include. These details are still etched in my memory.

After failing to dislodge the truck, I slept through the afternoon in my Omnipotent, then at 4pm I got up and packed my pack - sleeping bag, one-person tent, thermarest, food and snacks, 8 litres of water (2 gallons), MSR stove (to make my tea), a tiny clock and a flashlight. The first thing I did was to draw a line in the sand and then came at the line in my walking pace with the pack on, and took five paces beyond it. I drew a second line and then measured the distance with my body. My pace worked out at 2 foot 6 inches. Then I started. I counted off the first 1000 paces and timed it. 8 and a half minutes. So I multiplied the time and distance by two. 5000 feet in 17 minutes. That's 1 mile (5280 feet) in 20 minutes (or close enough). Three miles an hour. So I set my pace at walking by the clock for an hour, taking a 20 minute rest, and then another hour's walking. The reason for this was psychological. I knew how far I had to go and I wanted to know when I was half way. From then on it's downhill. Psychologically it was very important to me to know the end was nigh (so to speak).

It got dark around 7pm and I walked in the cool of the evening for another 2 hours (with a break) and then set up my tent, ate and got a good night's sleep. I got up at 5am, packed my stuff and headed off. The sun came up at 6am and I had only walked another half an hour when the truck came along. I was about a mile from the cattle station. I still had half my water with me.

The rest is history, as it were. Well, actually not. All traffic on the Gunbarrel had stopped because all the rivers that occasionally flow across it were in flood and there was no way to traverse the Gunbarrel - the storm had been that bad. We never saw a single vehicle (except for our saviour's one) until we eventually got almost to the end of the Gunbarrel at Wiluna. I had telephoned the police at Wiluna before setting off, giving them details of the vehicle, Stiles and myself, and the colour of the tents etc. It was actually a long and expensive call. They told me to be sure to call in when we came out before a particular date, and that if we didn't, they could start making enquiries. So, in I went to the police station (just before that final date) to let them know we had made it. They said they had no record of my call, and no idea that we were out on the Gunbarrel. So much for endangering the police that Ms Winter refers to.

Jim, please assure ms Winter that I am not an "adventurist lunatic". Lunatic I have no problem with, but "adventurist" is about a million miles from describing me, as far as I am aware. She should find out a bit more about the particular circumstances of the case before opening up about this particular situation. I know people die out in the desert. I've read lots of accounts of it. (I've even rescued someone.) I'm actually quite well read up on Australian history and politics. To compare our situation to that of Burke and Wills is ludicrous. The comparison with the two teenagers is not particularly apposite either.

I can admit to bad driving (as you Jim will vouchsafe, and did, if I remember rightly - my ears are still burning) and being underprepared (not having a high-lift jack for example), and had the distance been much greater I certainly wouldn't have attempted the walk, because I couldn't have walked the distance safely. I those circumstances I'd have stayed with the vehicle, Stiles and all!!! We had loads of food and a small lake of water surrounding the vehicle (and plenty of books so we wouldn't have to converse too much,

except to decide on which days we were going to have the smoked oysters, and which the kipper fillets for hors d'oeuvres). I dunno where ms Winter got the idea about "low water" in her letter. We had plenty in the vehicle for drinking as well.

But if you break down in sight of the pub, are you going to wait for rescue. No, and why not - because you can make it. I have hiked 17 miles (and longer) innumerable times, and I was reasonably comfortable that, with my experience and precautions, I would make it too. And if i didn't make it, I have long come to terms with the ultimate consequence of my actions, in my own quiet way.

Thanks  
Jeff Woods, aka Reggie Gubbins  
Somewhere in Montana

EDITOR'S NOTE: I can attest to Mr, Gubbins' walking skills; as an eye witness to the event, however, however I am convinced he spent more time measuring his stride than it took for Reg to reach his destination. To see the letter that got him all riled up to begin with, follow this link:

<http://www.canyoncountryzephyr.com/newzephyr/feb-mar2010/html/fe10-5.html>

**RED STONE WELLNESS**  
*The Greatest Wealth is Health*

at Capitol Reef this summer

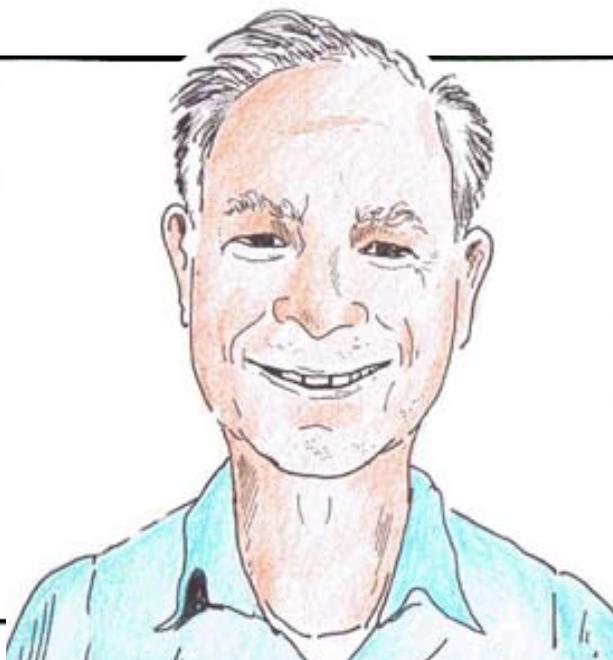
BALANCE YOUR LIFE  
July 28th - August 4th  
435-491-0230  
[www.redstonewellness.com](http://www.redstonewellness.com)

download ned mudd's music  
**FREE**  
[www.highplains.films.org](http://www.highplains.films.org)

**LAUNDROMAT**  
OPEN 24 HOURS • SELF SERVE  
588 Kane Creek Blvd.  
"Bring Your Dirty Laundry."

Country Clean Laundromat & Car Wash  
Behind McDonalds, Next to the Cinema

**CAR WASH**  
OPEN 24 HOURS • SELF SERVE  
588 Kane Creek Blvd.  
"Sling Your Mud Our Way."



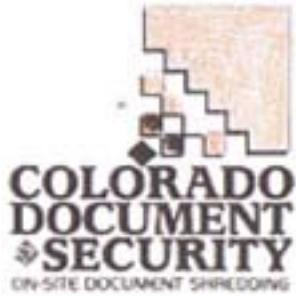
**Sore No More!**  
Natural Pain Relieving Gel

Soothing & Penetrating Topical Analgesic Gel  
provides effective relief from

- Arthritis • Over-Exerted & Sore Muscles
- & Promotes Healing with All-Natural Ingredients!

Available all over Moab, or Call  
**1-800-842-6622**  
[sorenomore.com](http://sorenomore.com)  
"Feel Your Soreness Melt Away."

WE'RE YOUR FRIENDLY  
GREEN DOCUMENT  
SHREDDERS!



Our new, smaller  
PEA SHOOTER  
trucks are more  
energy efficient!

...AND WE RECYCLE  
WHAT WE SHRED...

EVERY TON OF RECYCLED PAPER  
REDUCES CARBON EMISSIONS

**SCOTT FASKEN**  
970.464.4859  
fasken@bresnan.net



[www.coloradodocumentsecurity.org](http://www.coloradodocumentsecurity.org)

# TSAKURSHOVI



The home  
of the  
"DON'T  
WORRY,  
BE HOPI"  
T-shirt

A unique selection of traditional Hopi arts, crafts, and  
cultural items including over 150 Katsina dolls  
done in the  
traditional style,  
as well as baskets, ceremonial textiles,  
jewelry, pottery and more.

We also have complete visitor information (including  
connections for knowledgeable & articulate guides)  
to make your visit to Hopi  
a memorable & enjoyable one.  
We are located 1 1/2 miles east of the  
Hopi Cultural Center at MP 381 on HWY 264,  
in the heart of the HOPI REZ

928.734.2478 POB 234 SECOND MESA, AZ 86043

## MORE Zephyr Supporters for June/July...

- LANCE PARKER...THE FINGER---MOAB, UTAH
- MICHAEL SANDERS...THE FUNNYBONE---ALBUQUERQUE, NM
- SUZIE LEMIEUX...THE FINGER...PHOENIX, AZ
- LEWIS DOWNEY...THE FINGER---SLC, UTAH
- DENNIS LEMOTS...THE FUNNYBONE---OAKDALE, CT
- CORBY ANDERSON---THE FINGER---MARINA, CA
- GRETCHEN ELDER...THE FUNNYBONE---CANON CITY, CO
- JOHN EBBING---THE FINGER---HARRIET, ARKANSAS
- JOHN POND...THE FINGER---GRAND JCT, CO
- RON PARRY...THE FUNNYBONE---Houston, TX



**LIETIME  
BACKBONER**

**STEVE RUSSELL**  
Moab, UT



400 W Main.....Escalante, UTAH!!



Check out our page on facebook

