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order for a real estate contract
to be finalized.



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The amount of money that a
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ICE DAM
Ice dam formed at the roof edge
from melting snow, which
thaws and re-freezes of
melting snow on the overhang.



JOINT TENANCY
A legal term for when two or
more people own equal shares of
the same piece of property.



LISTING PRICE
A list price is the price of a
home for sale set by the seller
and listing agent.



WALK-THROUGH
The final inspection of a home
by a buyer before finalizing a
deal to purchase the home.



YIELD
The interest or return earned by
an investor stated as a percentage
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INSIDE Singletree

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NOTE: When community events take place, photographers may be present to take photos for that event, and they may be used in the publication.

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PUBLISHERS NOTE

HELLO SINGLETREE RESIDENTS!

Ah April! That time when snow still graces the mountains and signs of spring are budding with flowers yet to bloom. This month, I am excited to share with you heartwarming stories of new arrivals to the neighborhood, awe-inspiring adventures, and the creative energy of one of our talented neighbors. And more!

First, we introduce you to the Backus family, who recently moved “back” to Singletree. Having enjoyed a brief stint in Colorado in 2015, the young family left the mountains to return to their roots in St. Louis to pursue professional opportunities. Last summer, Jon, Lindsey, Ami, Oli, and their golden retriever, Summer, returned to the valley and know today they are exactly where they are meant to be.

Linda Hill shares her day-by-day account of her expedition to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro with family and friends. While for most, the 8-day trek is a “once in a

lifetime experience”, Linda and her crew would do it all over again to experience not only the thrill of reaching the top, but the Tanzanian people, guides, porters, children, and families who really made their adventure a special experience.

Pebbles Jemima Marie truly won the puppy lottery when she found her forever home here in Singletree with Sue and Mark Lathrop. As a rambunctious rescue from New Mexico, she will surely entertain you with her naughty antics.

And speaking of animals, Jill Flanagan, who you may know from the Sonnenalp Club, is an artist at heart. With a focus on abstracts, animals, and landscapes, she is a master at mingling colors to portray the joy of their creation.

As the season comes to a close, we check in with three young athletes: Quin Slayne, Keena Shikverg, and Carter Peirce. Here, they each share their personal triumphs on skis this winter - including the major accomplishment of getting out of bed to get to the hill!

I hope you enjoy this issue of your neighborhood magazine. Here’s to warmer days ahead!

Warm regards,

Holly Proctor
Publisher and Area Director
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holly.proctor@n2co.com



APRIL CONTRIBUTORS

YOUR STORIES. OUR PAGES.

Your contributions are the lifeblood of this publication; the existence of *Stroll Singletree* depends on steady support from individuals such as yourself. We extend this call to action to all members of our community – whether you’re a budding writer or enjoying retirement – to actively participate in shaping the future of your neighborhood magazine. Please share your stories and photographs by sending them to holly.proctor@n2co.com. We eagerly anticipate your engagement!



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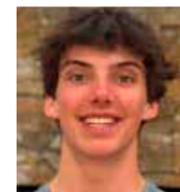
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Your neighborhood magazine, *Stroll Singletree*, hosts a variety of social events for all ages throughout the year. If you’re interested in receiving our invitations, please email us at strollsingletreersvp@gmail.com to be added to our invitation list.



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UPCOMING EVENTS IN SINGLETREE!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU...



April 7 – The golf course is no longer available for walking or exercising, with or without our pets. Please remember the golf course is private property, which they graciously allow residents to use during the winter. The Sonnenalp Club staff is preparing the course for opening day.



April 9 – Singletree resident's golf course clean up day! We got to enjoy the golf course all winter and now it is time to repay the kindness of the Sonnenalp Club and clean up the poop and trash we left behind this winter.



April 12 – The Sonnenalp Club golf course opens for the 2024 season.



May 4 – Community Pride Highway Clean Up Day! Singletree has adopted a one-mile section of I-70 south of Singletree and we need volunteers to help clean it up.



June 13 – Singletree Summer Concert with the five-piece Turntable Revue at the Community Center from 6 PM to 8 PM.

SINGLETREE

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LA STUDIO & CO.

In May of 2021, the Vail Valley gave a warm welcome to LA Studio & Co., a design firm owned by loved local, Addie Pecord. The opening of her company brought to life her dream of creating cozy spaces all over the valley, though she has quickly been able to bring her Colorado style all over the country. Addie's hands-on approach has been received with gratitude by happy homeowners, builders, and vendors with whom she focuses on building trusting, lasting relationships.

Addie, owner, and principal designer at LA Studio & Co., with husband Lucas Pecord, purchased and transformed what was formerly Inside Out Home Furnishings in December of 2023. On January 19th, they celebrated their grand opening as, LA Studio & Co. - Home Decor & Design. The new store offers a variety

of furniture and accessories to refresh your home whether you just completed a remodel or you just need to update your existing space. They plan to keep new product arriving frequently so there is always something new to see.

Addie will continue dedicating her time to creating welcoming and inspiring homes so if your project calls for more involved design expertise one can expect to be truly taken care of every step of the way. The process begins with getting a deep understanding of her clients wants and needs and translating that into beautiful, fresh, and functional spaces with a focused but flexible approach.

Lucas & Addie (the "L" and "A") hope to welcome you to their new space! To view completed projects or inquire about a design consultation, please visit lastudioco.com.



STORM HELP PRO

Storm Help Pro is a locally owned and operated company providing residential and commercial roof replacement services needed due to naturally occurring weather damage - typically from wind, snow load, or ice damming - and usually covered by your insurance.

The founder of Storm Help Pro, Jeff Posey, brings 35 years of experience in roof repair and replacement to meet the needs of the homeowners in Colorado. Specializing in the replacement of wood shake roofs, SHP offers a variety of solutions to best fit your home and meet the criteria set forth by the Singletree Design Review Committee, including composite shakes, slate, standing seam metal roofs, and architectural asphalt composition roofs, all meeting a Class A fire rating.

The most valuable service provided by the SHP team is negotiating with the insurance company on a homeowner's behalf to assure a smooth claims process. Many homeowners are not even aware that a roof replacement will qualify for insurance coverage, thereby incurring tremendous

unnecessary expense. Further, in today's world, insurance companies are all too often denying renewal policies as a result of aged and damaged roofs. SHP encourages a proactive approach to installing a new roof before your renewal is denied.

By working with the homeowners' insurance companies, SHP saved the homeowners in Aspen Glen (Carbondale) over \$3.8 million dollars in roof replacements due to weather damage. Additionally, they have recently saved a Singletree homeowner more than \$140,000 on the installation of his new roof.

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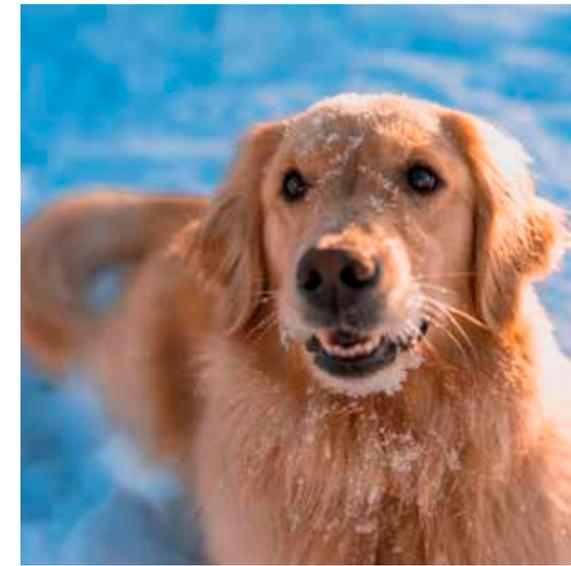


Jon, Lesley, Ami, Oli, & Summer

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY HULSE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Backus family's relationship with Vail Valley began in 2015 when Jon, an orthopedic surgeon, attended a one-year foot and ankle fellowship at The Steadman Clinic. "It was an incredible year," Jon said. "Not only was my mentor Dr. Clanton a wonderful teacher that helped make me a better surgeon in every possible way, but we also got to experience the magic of living in Colorado."

His wife Lesley agrees. "Before the fellowship at Steadman, Jon and I had lived in several places together...Illinois, London, Washington D.C., North



skiing and hiking and everything that the Valley offered, but it was these tiny moments that made everyday life that year so spectacular," she said.

When Jon's fellowship ended, the Backus family was eager to stay in Colorado. Jon joined a private practice on the front range, where the family also welcomed their son Oliver (Oli). "Lesley and I loved the idea of raising our kids in Colorado. And while we weren't quite in the

Valley, we were happy to try to stay as close as possible to a place that had captured our hearts," Jon said.

However, their time on the front range was short-lived. After living in the Denver area for a few years, Jon was offered an opportunity to join faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, thirty minutes from Jon and Lesley's hometown. It was a chance for Jon to pursue his research interests and practice at one of the best orthopedic academic institutions in the country. The only problem - it took them far away from their love of the mountains.

Carolina, Missouri. We thought this would be a one-year adventure in the mountains. But once we got here, we never wanted to leave."

The family found a year-long rental on Snaffle Rd and fell for Singletree and the beauty all around them. Lesley was able to work remotely for her job as a creative strategist, and she gladly traded her evening commute for wildlife sightings with her one-year-old daughter Amalia (Ami). "Ami and I would watch the deer migrate down the hill in the backyard each evening, backlit by cotton candy sunsets. Of course we loved





“Leaving Colorado for St. Louis was bittersweet,” Lesley said. “On one hand, being close to our families was really special. On the other, every time I looked at the horizon, I felt my heart break a little bit.”

The family prioritized visiting Vail Valley 2-3 times a year and held onto the dream of one day returning to Colorado full-time. But after spending a few years in St. Louis, they found themselves settling into

life there. They had discovered wonderful friends and neighbors, and Jon was establishing himself as a local and national leader in the foot and ankle orthopedic community.

Just as Jon and Lesley started to release the idea of permanently returning to Colorado, the opportunity came back to meet them. Jon was approached in early 2023 to potentially return to The Steadman Clinic and join Tommy Haytemek on the foot and ankle team. “It was the call of a lifetime and an honor just to be considered for that role,” Jon said.

“It felt surreal, especially after finding peace with being St. Louis,” Lesley said. “It was really hard to leave the people we love there, but we had to go for it. Our happiest family memories are in this Valley, and we’re thrilled to be putting down roots in the place we dreamt of raising our kids.”

When it came to deciding where to live, the family considered many areas because Jon is practicing in



both Vail and Frisco. But nowhere could compete with Singletree’s sunshine and trails. The family found a house on June Creek and closed in August 2023.

Today, Jon, Lesley, Ami, Oli and their golden retriever Summer are exactly where they’re supposed to be. Ami is in third grade at Stone Creek Charter School and has fully embraced life as a mountain kid with DEVO, mountain biking, hiking and gymnastics. Oli is in first grade and loving ski days with mom and dad, taekwondo and hitting the jumps on Singletree’s sledding hill. Jon is helping patients recover from foot and ankle injuries and starting new research projects at Steadman’s world-renowned orthopedics clinic. Lesley is head of strategy for a global PR firm and taking as many virtual meetings outdoors as possible. Summer is living her best dog life exploring the trails and meeting other pups in the neighborhood. But most of all, the family is enjoying a community that has welcomed them with open arms.

“We are so grateful for the friends and relationships that have emerged in our short time back,” Jon said. “We try not to take a single day here for granted. We know just how lucky we are to call it home.”



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Hosted by Sheila and Jerry Katz, our January event embodied the theme "NEW YEAR. NEW YOU." With a lineup of esteemed *Stroll Singletree* partners including **Apres IV & Aesthetics, Bhava Beauty and Wellness, Palic Clinic, and Sunsational Wellness**, the evening showcased the availability of aesthetic treatments, chiropractic procedures, cryotherapy, hair care services, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, IV therapy, massage, shock wave treatment, and other avenues to

optimize health and well-being. While being enlightened by our preferred providers, our guests also enjoyed sips and nibbles highlighted by an elaborate charcuterie board provided by *Stroll Singletree* sponsor, The Grazing Fox. Many guests departed with drawing winnings generously donated by our sponsors as well as a renewed spirit of rejuvenation and a personal new commitment to make 2024 their best year yet. Many thanks to Sheila and Jerry for a lovely soiree!

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CONQUERING MOUNT KILIMANJARO...

YES! WE WOULD DO IT AGAIN

Linda Hill, family, and friends trek 42 miles on the 8-day Lemosho Route to reach the summit at 19,341 feet

CONTRIBUTED BY LINDA HILL, SINGLETREE RESIDENT



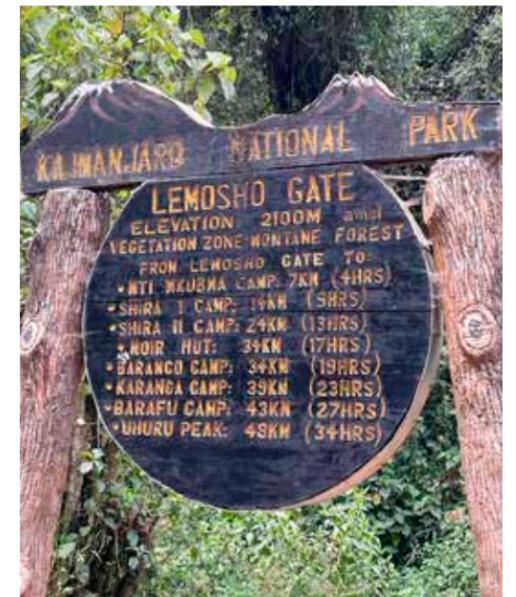
At the Top (L to R): Jim Telling, Kimberly Gillie Aguilar, Linda Hill, Taylor Telling, Bobby Fuller, and holding the Vail Daily, Kevin Gillie



Kevin snap chatting our 28 porters and guides on the way to Lemosho Gate



Arusha Market full of goodies grown locally



A great overview of our week-long trek starting at Lemosho Gate

We live in CO and we thought we knew what a view was. After all, there are plenty of peaks to ascend and valleys to admire from above in this great state. But the moment sunrise hit the peak of Kilimanjaro in the early hours of September 17, 2023, we were given a whole new perspective on what it meant to sit high above the cloud line at 19,340 feet. Mt. Meru in Tanzania in the distance (an already very high 14.9k ft) seemed like a small hill. The valley surrounding our perch was filled with rolling clouds and bright orange and yellow streaks from the early sun. The top was spectacular. The 7-day journey getting there was even better.

WHEN TO GO

In early 2023, after 40 years in the industry, I had the great fortune of selling my marketing agency (sometimes referred to as my 3rd child, by my 2 real children) to an incredible leader ready to make her own mark. To celebrate, my husband Bruce and

I decided we wanted to take the family somewhere to make adventurous new memories. It just so happened that the trip would also coincide with our 40th wedding anniversary.

The idea to summit Kilimanjaro came about after talking to a local friend, Mike Claymon and his girlfriend Linda, who had enjoyed the trek a couple of years before. He recommended the travel company he used so I began the research. His recommendation, Ramblin Travel, is owned by Bobby Fuller, an avid mountaineer who previously lived in the Vail Valley before relocating to Atlanta to be closer to his parents.

Bobby's firm offers a boutique experience with lots of personal attention and care, so it was a no brainer to sign up with him and his team in Tanzania. Settling on a date that worked for us was almost harder than reaching the summit! Our group

included my 2 adult children, one in Hawaii and one in NYC, plus new son-in-law and our two close friends.

We finally agreed on September 2023, so my son Kevin and I set September 7th as our departure date from Colorado with plans to meet our daughter, Kimberly and her husband, Luis, in Amsterdam on the 8th. Good friends Jim Telling and his son, Taylor, joined us for the climb and flew through Zurich on

the same dates. We all arrived at the Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO) on September 9th.

After a mostly organized, still slightly chaotic, visa and baggage process (as Bobby likes to say, “when in Africa!” or WIA), we were greeted by Bobby and his transport team who promptly took us to his lead guide and business partner’s home for dinner. Veronika (also known locally as Mama V) has a beautiful farm between the airport and the city

of Arusha, where we would stay the first night. She had prepared a typical Tanzanian dinner welcoming us with open arms. Bobby and his drivers then took us to the hotel in Arusha.

Arusha is a city of 600,000+ people at 4,800 feet. It can be one of the beginning points to banish the jet lag before heading to Kilimanjaro National Park. It’s cacophony of people, businesses, and markets were amazing.

We spent two nights in Arusha before our climb began on the Lemoshu 8-day route. During our time in Arusha, Bobby and his local team gave us a great tour of the Arusha area including the markets – and helped us with some bartering. We completed a briefing on the Mt. Kilimanjaro trek that evening. For the 6 of us, we had 28 porters and 3 guides including Veronika herself (Mama V), Joshua (JMan) and Samuel (Sam the Wise). Bobby had decided to join us for the entire time as well to capture video for his website. How could a former marketing executive say no to a little content boost for ramblintravel.com and their Facebook page? Our videos are posted if you’re interested!

ONWARD TO LEMOSHO GATE

We were met the morning of the 11th at the hotel and jumped onto the vans that would take us to the Lemoshu Gate (7,800 ft.) in Kilimanjaro National



Ready to hike: guides JMan, Mama V and Sam (far right)

Park. At the gate, we had lunch, handed our overnight bags to our porters, and made sure our day packs had snacks, water and rain gear (just in case). We then headed through the rain forest to the first camp, Big Tree camp at 9,100 feet. The porters passed us along the way saying “Jambo” - which means hello in Swahili - laughing and singing.

When we arrived at Big Tree Camp, our tents were already set up and the porters had the cooking tents, their porter tents, and our port-a-potty tent all set up. The hike was an easy journey through an amazing rain forest full of Colobus and Blue Monkeys.

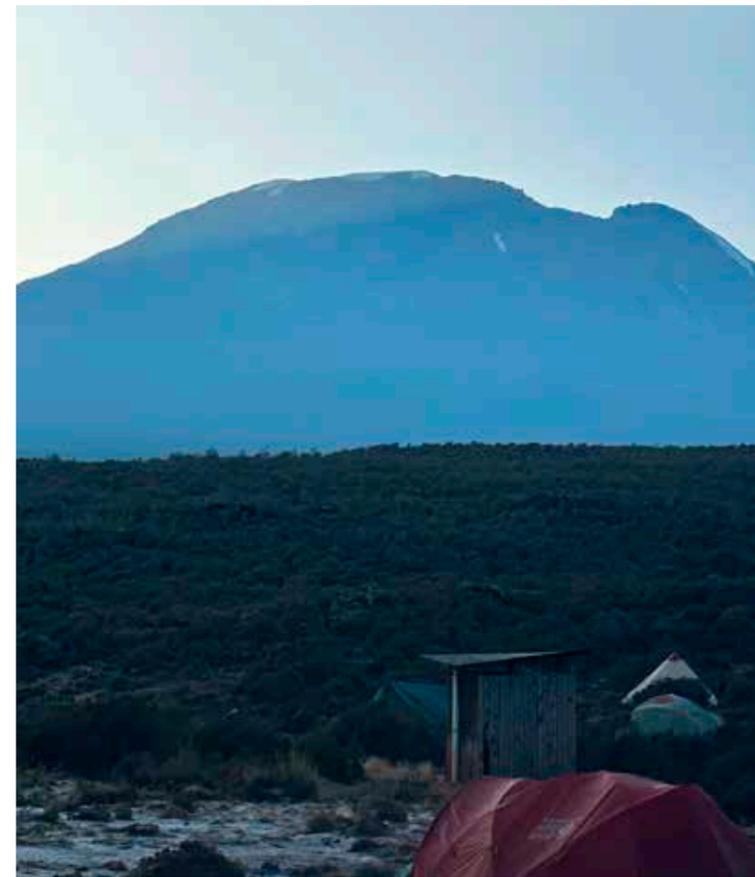
One of the porters, Leonard, quickly became one of our favorite people. He is roughly 30 years old with a ready smile and great personality. He would wake us up around 6 am each morning with a cheerful “Good Morning, how did you sleep” and a cup of coffee or in my case tea, as we got ready for the day. Then he’d come back in 15 minutes with hot water for “washy washy” and tell us breakfast was almost ready. We’d pack up our gear and go to our dining tent for a hot breakfast to begin our day. Leonard also acted as our waiter for meals, bringing food, clearing dishes, etc. Breakfast was typically porridge and a fruit plate, followed by omelets and crepes! Amazing.

The selection of food prepared for each meal - breakfast, lunch, and dinner - included fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, meats, and more. Chef Dennis gladly accommodated a gluten free menu for our daughter, and even though we were covering some great mileage each day, I think the boys actually gained weight!

Our port-a-potty tent was called the “helicopter” and Leonard’s brother Sam was the “helicopter pilot” who always made sure it was clean and well stocked. This was Sam’s main duty as a porter, in addition to carrying gear, and we appreciated his smiling personality and willingness to teach us Swahili.

After breakfast each day, we then got our day packs together to begin the days trek. Day 2 led us to Shira I Camp, approximately a 5-hour hike bringing us to 11,500 feet. The hike was easy and the hiking trail left the rain forest bringing us into open terrain for our first view of Kibo, the first volcanic cone of Kilimanjaro. The weather cooperated and the views were magnificent.

Again, our porters passed us carrying all the gear for camp that night. The team of 28 carried everything except our day packs including our tents, sleeping bags, food, cooking gear, chairs, and the port-a-potty. We welcomed them with



Kibo, the 1st volcanic cone of Kilimanjaro

“Jambo” and a few stopped to chat with us and teach us more Swahili.

Upon arrival, we were greeted with hot tea and coffee, a dusting off of our boots, and more hot water to washy-washy. Tents were all set up so that we could rest before dinner. However, we decided to hang with some of the porters and play cards, teaching them UNO, rummy and a few other games. Dinner again was amazing, chicken, rice, fresh vegetables, and a pickled cabbage salad with fresh bread (gluten free version for our daughter). We met with the guides after dinner for the next day’s briefing on what to expect.

Being a guide on Kilimanjaro is no small task. Each guide must go to school to be certified and most spend years prior on the mountain as porters and cooks, learning the routes and various languages they’ll need to succeed. Our guides would brief us each evening after dinner on what to expect the following day. They’d tell us how much water we needed for the day, what weight clothing or gear we needed to wear and carry, etc. They’d remind us of the 4 keys to Kili success: 1) acclimatization, 2) drink plenty of water, 3) PMA (positive mental attitude), and 4) pole pole (slowly, slowly).

ONWARD TO SHIRA II CAMP

On the morning of Day 3, we packed up to leave Shira I Camp to trek to Shira II Camp, approximately 6.5 miles arriving at an elevation of 12,775 feet, higher than the highest point on Vail Mountain! Again, the porters broke camp, put everything on their

heads or backs and passed us chatting and singing all the way. More Jambo's and Mambo's, with a few Hakuna Matata's thrown in. You all may recognize Hakuna Matata from the Lion King - its origin is Swahili and it is used regularly meaning "no worries". We truly had none.

We had a rainy evening at Shira II Camp so we passed the time getting to know our team. We ended up as a group in the porters' tent, passing stories and questions back and forth. We learned that each person helping us reach our goal of the summit was on an incredible journey of their own. Many were learning English in hopes of one day becoming a guide, while others were using their earnings to get themselves through school in business or teaching. We ended the evening with a round of Swahili songs, it was such a special moment.

On Day 4, from Shira II camp, we trekked to Baranco Camp acclimatizing along the way as we gained 2,425 feet in elevation to Lava Tower (15,200 feet) for lunch and descended 2,100 feet to Baranco Camp at 13,100 feet. The trees and flora on this day were amazing. This was a long day of walking up high hills and then back down to camp to

acclimate so we were happy to have a beautiful distraction.

THE KISSING WALL

Baranco Camp is right at the base of the famous Baranco Wall that we would be climbing the next day. The trek turned into more of a rock climbing expedition for a few hours on the start of Day 5. The kissing wall is part of this and appropriately named as you hug the sheer wall to cross the short distance, our guides telling us to kiss the wall on the way, probably so we didn't look down. It was one of our favorite hikes as it was fun to quickly climb over rocks and boulders to get to the top. And again, the porters passed us singing and waving, carrying everything as they scrambled up the rocks and boulders to beat us to Karanga Camp.

Karanga Camp (13,250 feet) is the last camp before Barafu, the basecamp of Kili. Upon arrival at Karanga, we were again greeted by the porters sharing some Tanzanian dances and songs. Dinner was again fabulous; I think both Taylor and Kevin had 3rds that night.



The non-traditional way to backpack



Shira II Camp with Mt. Meru in the distance



Sunrise as we reach the summit - with Mt. Mira and Kenya in the distance



Magnificent sel trees are indigenous to this area of Tanzania



Baranco wall with others on the trail

BARAFU BASE CAMP

Barafu (15,250 feet) is the basecamp and only 2.5 miles from Karanga. Upon arrival on Day 6, we had a hot lunch with a warming selection of soups, chicken, and pancakes. We then got our packs together and rested up to get ready for the summit hike that would begin at midnight. We were briefed at 4 pm about the journey ahead and had an early light dinner.

THE CLIMB

At 10 pm, we were woken up by Leonard and shepherded into the tent for one last backpack check and a round of snacks. We took off for the summit just after 11:30 pm with our 3 main guides and 3 additional summit guides. For this last major push, the idea is to have one guide per person in case anyone needs to turn around or go at a different pace. This was the beauty of a boutique agency. There were many other groups of people heading out from the Barafu Camp so the steep trail up the mountain was this beautiful show of



Barafu Base Camp at 15,250 feet



Kimberly hanging with our porters while it drizzled outside at Shira II Camp



Glaciers at the top of Kilimanjaro

headlamps in tidy lines. It almost resembled a nighttime ski down in Vail! (but in this case Ski-Up!)

Pole Pole, slow, slow, and take it easy were the words of the evening. We did go slow and had no trouble with the climb to the summit. We hit the coldest temperatures between 3 am - 5 am but were layered up in ski gear and stopped halfway for hot ginger tea and gummy bears.

We reached the rim of the crater around 6:30 am and the summit around 7:30 am. Seeing the sun come up, hitting Mt. Meru, views of Kenya and the surrounding valleys below us was truly magnificent. The sun glistened off of the glaciers surrounding the very top, beautiful structures that are unfortunately slowly receding with time.

An unexpected and very inspirational part of this journey was meeting many people from all over the world at the top and all along the way - one Ukrainian gentleman asked us to take a picture of him at the top as he held a poster with his girlfriend's name on it. She could not make the trek due to the conflict with Russia. Tears all around as we took the photo.



Celebrating one great trip with family, friends, and incredible guides at the finish

Another incredible gentleman we met was a British Airforce Veteran with a prosthetic leg doing the trek as a fundraiser for Veteran Groups in England. He had raised over \$400K in 3 years and this was the pinnacle of this efforts. He had heard of Cheryl Jensen's Vail Veteran's program, and of course, Wounded Warriors.

Then there were the mom and son, Line and Hugo from Denmark, who we met on the plane and stayed in touch with before and after our trek. We crisscrossed many times with them as they were also doing the 8-day Lemosho route. They both were warriors. They had a bout of food poisoning, but powered through it.

The hardest part for me was coming down on the loose shale after summiting. 8+ hours up and then they tell you, you have to go back down! We made it in about 4 hours and were greeted back at camp with singing and dancing by all our porters as they welcomed each one of us back by name. We then rested for about 30 minutes, had a quick lunch, and headed down to the lower camp, Mweka, to spend the night and hike out the next morning. The best night of sleep I bet we've all had was the night after the summit!

My husband, Bruce, decided not to do the trek, instead meeting us for safari afterwards. He arrived on the 18th just after we got back to the Arusha Hotel. We rested up, showered, and were invited back to Veronika's the next day for a community party that honored all she has done for their community. Enjoying the party and meeting 50-60 Tanzanian businesspeople, town council members, our porters, guides, and more was amazing. All honoring Mama V.

Yes, the summiting was fabulous, but it was the Tanzanian people, guides, porters, children and more that we really fell in love with. Now onto Safari - just joking, that is a story for another time...

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How One Wild Hearted Rescue Pup Found Love in Singletree

Pebbles Jemima Marie Lathrop discovers the joy of branches, flower pots, and plastic pools

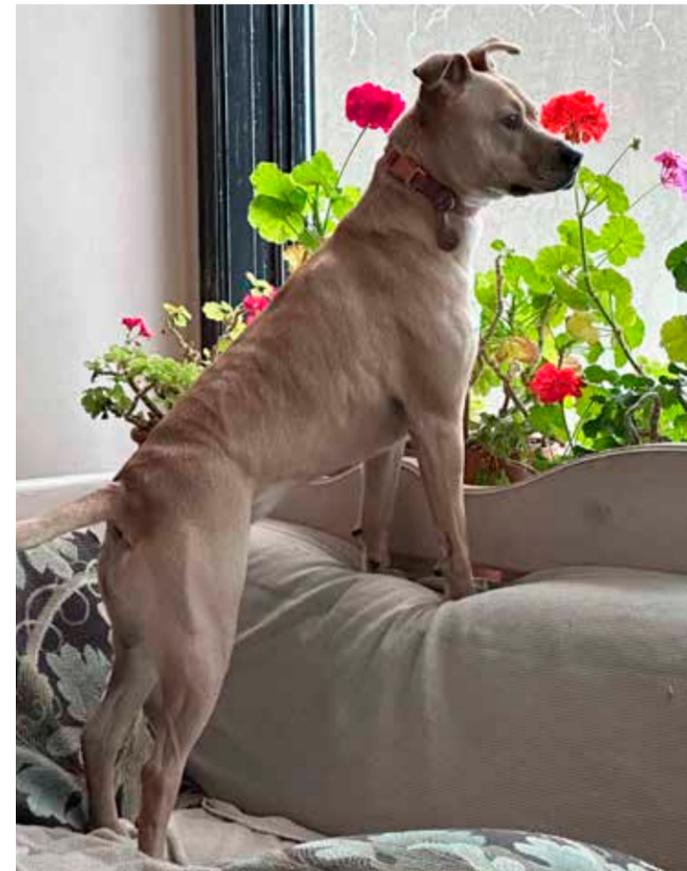
CONTRIBUTED BY PEBBLES AND SUE LATHROP, SINGLETREE PET AND RESIDENT



I don't miss New Mexico - it's really beautiful here!



I really am cute...



Director of Neighborhood Watch



Showing my appreciation by pruning low branches off of every tree



My variation of the Dragonfly pose in yoga



Momma should not have go into the house for those 5 minutes!

alone. I missed out on early socialization with other puppies and people, and I didn't have a chance to run off my (boundless) energy.

Thankfully my Momma and my big brother drove to New Mexico to bring me to my new home. I have a Momma named Sue, my Dad is Mark, two brothers who are Parker and Christian, and also a sister named Emma. I was so very grateful for my new family, and I wanted to show my appreciation. I tried to help in the yard by pruning low branches

off of every tree. Those branches are quite fun to chew on and run around with. I also tried to sweep the back deck, but I ended up eating part of the broom. So I thought I would help with the snow shoveling. But that snow shovel was really fun to chew on and drag around the yard.

I finally found a job that I am very good at, and I love. I am the Director of Neighborhood Watch for Singletree. If anything is happening in the 'hood, I know about it! Mondays are particularly busy days for me. There are two different garbage trucks that drive through the streets, as well as two different recycling trucks. They are big noisy trucks, which I do not like, but the worst part is that the men actually TAKE things from

Hi everyone! My name is Pebbles and I love to live in Singletree. My full name is Pebbles Jemima Marie, but my Momma only calls me that when I am doing something naughty. I came to my forever home about 2 1/2 years ago from New Mexico.

I am a rescue pup, but my early life wasn't as horrible as some other rescues. My first owner brought me home to be her puppy. Then the pandemic hit, and my first owner, who is a medical professional, found herself working a full-time job plus another almost full time job. This was in a small town in New Mexico with very few doctors and nurses. So, as a result, I had to spend way too many hours in my kennel

each house when they stop. It seems that I am the only one who seems concerned about all this **theft** happening every week! And those loud, big snowplows - don't even get me started about how much they hack me off!

A year ago, my Momma brought home a rigid plastic kiddie pool. She thought I would like to splash around in it. I was afraid of the pool at first, but finally one day I stood in the water with my Momma. She had to go into the house for about five minutes, and when she came back out, she was upset to see that I had already chewed a hole in the bottom of the pool, and all the water was leaking out. I am pretty sure I heard my full name that day!!

What she did not understand was what a fine toy a kiddie pool can be! I put it in my mouth and ran as fast as I could around the yard. Sometimes it would flip up over me, and completely cover me while I was running around. Oh, and it was fun to chew to bits!! I did the same thing with a plastic flowerpot that I found in the yard. I wonder why some people buy toys for their dogs at a pet store?? The best toys are right there in your own backyard.

I like to practice yoga with odd poses and "sploot" (it's a pit-bull thing). My Momma is trying to train me to be a Therapy Dog with Pet Partners. Hopefully I will pass the evaluation, and then I can go to schools to have children read to me as well as go to retirement homes and hospitals to visit with people. I LOVE meeting new people!! But I think I need to settle down a little more before I will pass my evaluation.

So, now you know about me. If you see me walking around the neighborhood, please come by and ask if you can say hi. That will give me some practice at being calm while meeting new people.



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CONTRIBUTED BY CARTER PEIRCE, KEENA SHIKVERG,
AND QUIN SLAYNE, SINGLETREE RESIDENTS



This month, we meet three young race enthusiasts: Quin Slayne, a 6th grader at Vail Mountain School, and two 10th graders, Keena Shikverg at Battle Mountain High School and Carter Peirce at Vail Mountain School as well. While representing different schools, they share a deep love for alpine ski racing... and a struggle with getting up in the morning to pursue their passion. But they will all agree, it's ultimately worth the effort!

QUIN SLAYNE
VAIL MOUNTAIN SCHOOL
GRADE 6

When did you first start skiing?

At age 3 in Vail. We came out 2 weeks a year.

Why did you choose to pursue alpine racing?

My mom has skied her whole life and part of the reason for us moving to Colorado was for me to ski and race. I just started this year at VMS and love it.

Who has inspired you the most?

My mom's passion for skiing. I am still nervous going around the gates, but so far, I have not fallen.

What kind of training regimen do you follow?

I ski 2 afternoons a week and usually take a full day off from school if there is a competition. I ran cross country in the fall to help with the training. I do DEVO on Saturday and ski with my Mom on Sunday.

What do you find is the most difficult or challenging part of racing?

I am worried about hitting the gates. Someone told me that it would rip my arm off, so I got a little scared lol.

How have you done in competition so far this season?

I am slow but consistent. I show up at each practice, and I have gone to each race. I take a few seconds off my time each time. I have done Slalom and Giant at Cooper, Loveland, and Eldora.

How do you feel about your results?

I want to be faster and learn to edge more. I am trying to roll my toes. I'd like to be faster off the start. But we just moved from the East Coast and this is my first year.

What has been your best memory so far of ski racing?

I love my coaches and riding the bus and being part of a team. I'm not happy about getting up at 5 AM sometimes but there's a lot of excitement once you get out on the slopes. I like being at the gate and waiting for the beep to go.

What do you think the rest of this season holds for you?

I will be done soon with VMS but will continue DEVO and hopefully work with Ski School Vail.

What are your aspirations for racing in the future?

Right now I would just like to be a solid ski racer and maybe give up a little bit of my fear. Who knows, Olympics?



KEENA SHIKVERG
BATTLE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
GRADE 10

When did you first start skiing?

I first started skiing when I was about one and a half. My first time on skis was in my backyard in Singletree going down the very flat hill on two little sticks of skis. I slowly progressed to following my older sister on the magic carpet in Bachelor Gulch.

Why did you choose to pursue alpine racing?

It was the first year of the Lindsey Vonn Epic mix race series where I won the 6 and under age group, where I fell in love with ski racing. I got my winning globe signed by Lindsey Vonn which I still have to this day, to look up to.

Who has inspired you the most?

Lindsey Vonn was the person who most inspired me when it came to ski racing. She was the reason I fell in love with the sport. It was inspiring to see a woman like Lindsey Vonn racing against some of the best male ski racers in the world. She gave me the courage and confidence to spend the time to learn and get better at ski racing.

What kind of training regimen do you follow?

To be completely honest I don't have much of a strict training regimen. Every day I get out of my last period at 2:54 and we are expected to get up to Beaver Creek Mountain to train until the lift closes. Every day I get to enjoy the drive up to the mountain and race against the clock to get changed as fast as I can. My first run starts around 3:30 for my two quality runs every day until 4. The best days are when I get changed extra fast in time to get some of the last delicious Beaver Creek cookies. I enjoy every day being allowed to ski.

What do you find is the most difficult or challenging part of racing?

The most difficult part of ski racing is the early mornings you have to wake up for ski races. At ski races, you are expected to load the lift when it opens at 8:30 meaning that you have to wake up super early. This is the hardest part because I am not much of a morning person.

How have you done in competition so far this season?

This high school racing season we have had 6 races so far, both giant slalom and slalom. I have the goal to finish all races in the top 15. In the races this season, I have been finishing in the top 10 for every race and one of the three main point scorers for the women's side of the BMHS alpine team.

How do you feel about your results?

I am very happy with my results so far as we go into the state championships next week. My goal for every race is to just finish the course and the results will follow.

What has been your best memory so far of ski racing?

My favorite memory from ski racing is when I got to participate in a dual slalom race in Steamboat. It is my favorite memory because it was a night race and we got to race under the lights. Dual racing is when you go head-to-head with another girl in a single elimination bracket. You would race side by side and it was a race to the finish line. It was so much fun.

What do you think the rest of this season holds for you?

I think the rest of the season holds good results for me at the state championships next week. Also, the rest of

the season will hold great experiences and good memories shared with my friends on the mountain.

What are your aspirations for racing in the future?

My aspiration when it comes to ski racing is to enjoy all 4 years of ski racing filled with core memories that will stay with me for a long time. The reason why I enjoy high school racing so much is because of all the memories that you can experience and share with others in the future. I am so lucky to be one of the few people who can say they got to race for their high school.



CARTER PEIRCE
VAIL MOUNTAIN SCHOOL
GRADE 10

When did you first start skiing?

I started skiing as soon as I could walk and I've always loved it.

Why did you choose to pursue alpine racing?

I chose alpine racing because when I was in Future Stars with Ski Club, I tried out racing and I've stuck with it. I've skied for Ski Club through middle school and now I do high school racing for VMS.

What kind of training regimen do you follow?

For training, our team goes up on the mountain every Monday and Thursday for about two hours and Saturday afternoons.

What do you find is the most difficult or challenging part of racing?

Waking up in the morning. But seriously, when the course is rutted from previous runs or you have to adapt to the different weather conditions, it can be tricky.

How have you done in competition so far this season?

I have had some great results (qualified for Slalom and GS for state champs) with a 4th and a 7th.

How do you feel about your results?

I was very happy with that, but then had some unfortunate runs when I did well on the 1st run but then DNF (Did Not Finish) on the 2nd run.

What has been your best memory so far of ski racing?

One of my best memories is when I was sick during a race, so I stayed home but I went to the race the next day and raced. I really did well with a 4th finish.

What do you think the rest of this season holds for you?

As I write this, the next few days are the high school champs which I hope to do well in.

What are your aspirations for racing in the future?

I plan on skiing my junior and senior year in high school and improving over time. Maybe I will ski in college but who knows.



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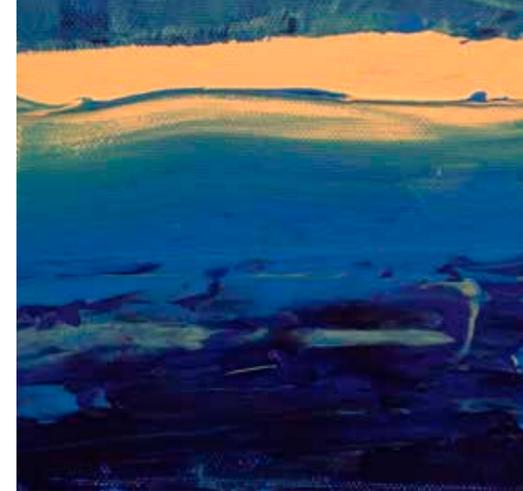
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THE POLAR BUNCH

A Kaleidoscope of Creativity on Canvas

Jill Flanagan's brushstrokes mingle dazzling colors to captivate vibrant animals, abstracts, and landscapes

CONTRIBUTED BY JILL FLANAGAN, SINGLETREE RESIDENT

Hello! My name is Jill Flanagan. You might know me from working at the Sonnenalp Club, or perhaps you have seen me walking my giant floof, Uni around the neighborhood. I am also an artist and spend time in my home studio putting color on canvas.

I have always drawn, much to the chagrin of my parents, it started on the walls. I graduated to drawing on their newspapers and magazines. In grade school, I had a watercolor painting published in our local newspaper. This



COLORADO SKIES

was how it all began. I pursued art classes throughout school, mostly sticking to drawing. Upon graduation from high school, I planned on going to college for fashion design.

Once I was in the program at Colorado State University, I found out I would have to learn to sew. That did not seem to be my forte. So, I ended up going into the art program. I fell in love with

painting there and that started my pursuit of color. I enjoyed art history and two of my favorites are Matisse and Van Gogh. I have been fortunate to have seen many of their pieces in person and love looking at the magic of their brushstrokes.

Growing up in Evergreen, CO gave me an appreciation for everything outdoors. The abounding colors you see in Colorado are simply endless. Luckily my parents were interested in art

and took yearly trips to Santa Fe. I fell in love with the art of Velay Vigil from those amazing art trips. Our days were spent traipsing through open houses and art galleries.

I tend to paint abstracts, animals and landscapes. When beginning an abstract, I enjoy having the paint flow and the colors mingle. When painting animals, the pure joy of their creation keeps me fixated. I choose colors that feel right to me, seeing animals my way or how they could be.

To see more of my work, please visit my website: jillbenson.com.







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751 Singletree Road 9 | Townhome
3 bd | 3 ba | 2,670 sf | \$1,770,000

141 Chaparral Road | Single-Family
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Source: VMLS 1.15.24 – 2.15.24



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