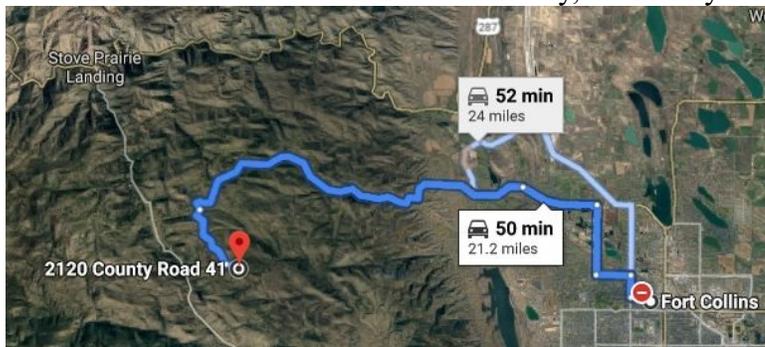


Camp Hope

For several years my wife, Gail, has worked with Maureen Krumm preparing various materials for inclusion in shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Millions of such boxes are sent as gifts to children worldwide each year. (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>)

Recently Maureen was encouraging Gail and me to help with Camp Hope, held at Buckhorn Camp (<http://www.buckhorncampco.org>) in the Colorado mountains west of Fort Collins. We were put in contact with the Camp Hope Director, Rhonda Leonard (camphope@buckhorncamp.org). Camp Hope celebrated 40 years of operation this Summer. There were two successive weeks hosting campers for 5 days each. We volunteered to help for the first two days of the first week as our introduction to their program. The road trip from our home west of Denver took about 2 hours each way, eventually following a twisting canyon road into the mountains.



There are no nearby villages up there. Apart from isolated homes and farms, the main nearby feature is a peak loaded with perhaps a dozen radio towers.



Google Earth satellite view of Buckhorn Camp from 2017.



Our activities were held in Buckhorn Lodge, the large building below the center of the satellite view of the Camp. The dining hall and two large bunk bed rooms were in the Elkhorn Lodge building above the view center. A raised wooden walkway connected the two buildings. Some of the staff and guest campers stayed in the small cabins.

Only in the extreme lower right corner of this view are trees that were burned by a large regional fire. This part of the camp was spared damage.

Camp Hope has been held at Buckhorn Camp since 1979. Camp Hope is a Christian summer camp for people with physical and developmental disabilities. It strives to open a new world of possibilities to these special individuals. Campers at Camp Hope are primarily adults with mild to more severe levels of disabilities. The camp, program, and activities are adapted to meet the needs of the campers. It seeks to provide a quality,

Christ-centered outdoor educational experience for all, regardless of ability.

To serve the campers, volunteers are needed with a variety of skills and abilities. Camp Hope especially needs nurses. The nurse duties involve managing campers medications, providing medical support for tube feedings, and other hygiene procedures. The nurse would also be assisting in providing basic training to the other volunteers for their care of the campers.

Camp Hope also needs volunteers to fill all of the caretaker positions. They strive to have one-to-one support for all their campers. Volunteers should be ages 13 and up, including retired, and be willing to support persons with varying levels of disabilities. Other positions include: recreation leaders, craft leaders, photographer, and a speaker to provide a Bible lesson each day. We volunteers were then counted as staff for Camp Hope.

For our brief two nights and days, 7-9 July, at Camp Hope, Gail served by helping with mobility for some campers. Her sixteen years of teaching pre-school children provided skills for some of the craft works and recreational activities. My role was as a photographer, providing photos of every camper in a variety of their activities, for inclusion in their memory scrapbooks. I was able to make their computer systems print the photos. Tuesday morning I did my special "Instant Snowstorm" demonstration for campers and volunteers, making it snow repeatedly inside Buckhorn Lodge. (see <http://www.EdHolroyd.info/snowstorm> for instructions and illustrations.) That fit in with their winter/Christmas theme for Tuesday.



Kitchen in Elkhorn Lodge, for cafeteria style



Campers and staff at Buckhorn Lodge

During our meals we volunteers served the campers by bringing the food and utensils to the tables. Though most campers were mobile, notice the several wheel chairs. We also took the dishes and utensils to the dish room after the campers and ourselves were finished eating. Almost everyone could feed themselves, though some needed help.



Campers and volunteers eating together.



Natalie feeding Victoria



Golden Mantled Squirrels at left, rabbit at right]





Gail (left), Rhonda (right) pushing Victoria

Some of our activities were outside in the fresh mountain air and sunshine.



Throwing a ball at ten bowling pins



Evening campfire with singing



Robin watching a memory book being marked



Bouncing balls with a colorful parachute



The tossed ring is near the left person's elbow

Craft activities were done inside the Buckhorn Lodge.



Helping with shirt painting



Painting stones



Bingo game inside Buckhorn Lodge

Monday evening we were in a large circle, passing a blue ball. When the music stopped, as in musical chairs, the person with the ball had the opportunity to give thanks for something.



Giving thanks, helped by some topics on card



Giving thanks beside Gail



Giving thanks joyfully



Then everyone got into small groups to discuss the Bible theme for the day.

At Camp Hope we volunteers (staff) mostly operated in a servant mode, as directed by Jesus in John 13. Note that Jesus himself did so



even more as described in Philippians 2:7-8a. "...but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, and being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself..." Camp Hope provides a good opportunity for us volunteers to serve others who lack some of our abilities and conditions.

Dr. Ed Holroyd, 15 July 2019



Violet-green Swallow

(American Robin in nest at far right)



Plumbeous Vireo



Lincoln's Sparrow



Mountain Bluebird

