

The banks of the Snake River, Idaho  
July 6, 2007

Hello to all,

I just wanted to check in and let you all know we are OK and doing fine.

We've been working our way north trying to find some cool air, but that strategy is not working very well. The entire region is 15-20 degrees Fahrenheit above average.

The upside is we've been able to test the rig in very high temperatures. We've been climbing mountains in over 100+F (38C) degree heat for quite a while now. The truck can overheat under those conditions so we have to downshift and just take it slow.

Tomorrow we are traveling up to the River of No Return Wilderness in central Idaho where we'll camp until we run out of food, water or bug spray, whichever comes first.

Our goal is to find a spot where we can camp next to a small tributary of the Salmon River. There are lots of possibilities on the Forest Service maps, so I'm sure we'll find a good place where we can put our feet into the water to cool off.

We plan to ride the dirt bikes around the area on the forest roads and trails to explore the ghost towns and abandoned mines in the area.

We've been out for a month and I had my first full day off yesterday. I spent it reading and relaxing next to the Snake River. That evening was the first time I felt remotely like myself in many, many months.

We're getting the lifestyle sorted out and the rig is working fine.

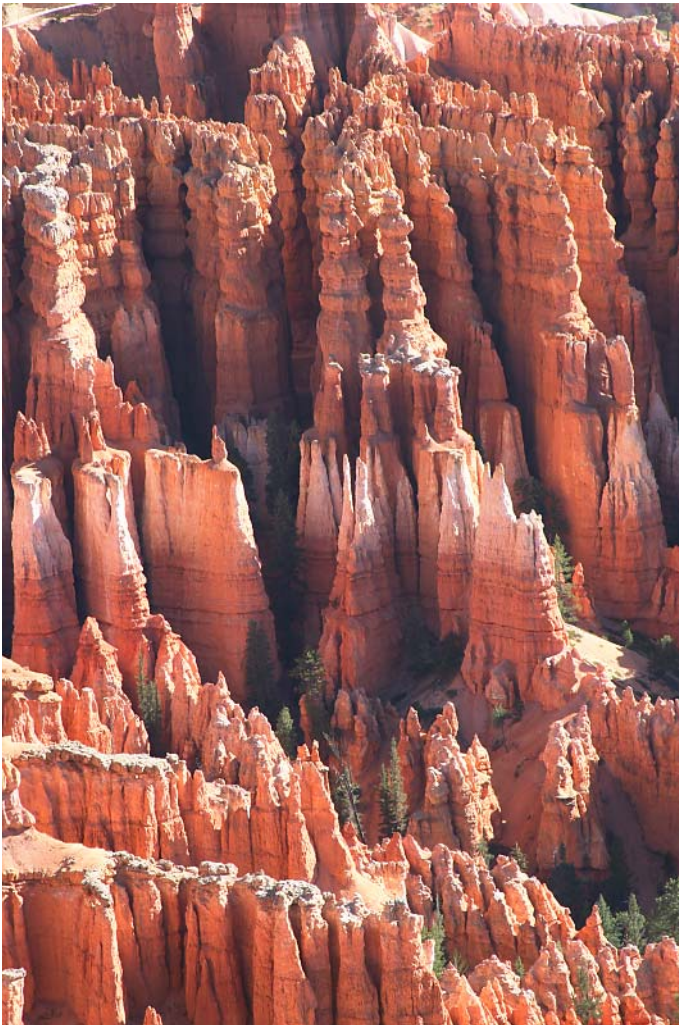
I hope you all get the chance to explore this region someday. You'll find the BLM and National Forest, Park and Monument campgrounds to be in excellent condition and mostly empty. Along with that you'll find millions and millions of acres of unspoiled wilderness absolutely filled with wildlife. Contrary to popular belief, it's all still here and there are no circling bulldozers waiting to destroy it. But you have to get up off the couch and/or off the keyboard and get out here to discover the difference between the reality and the propaganda.

Some photos follow.

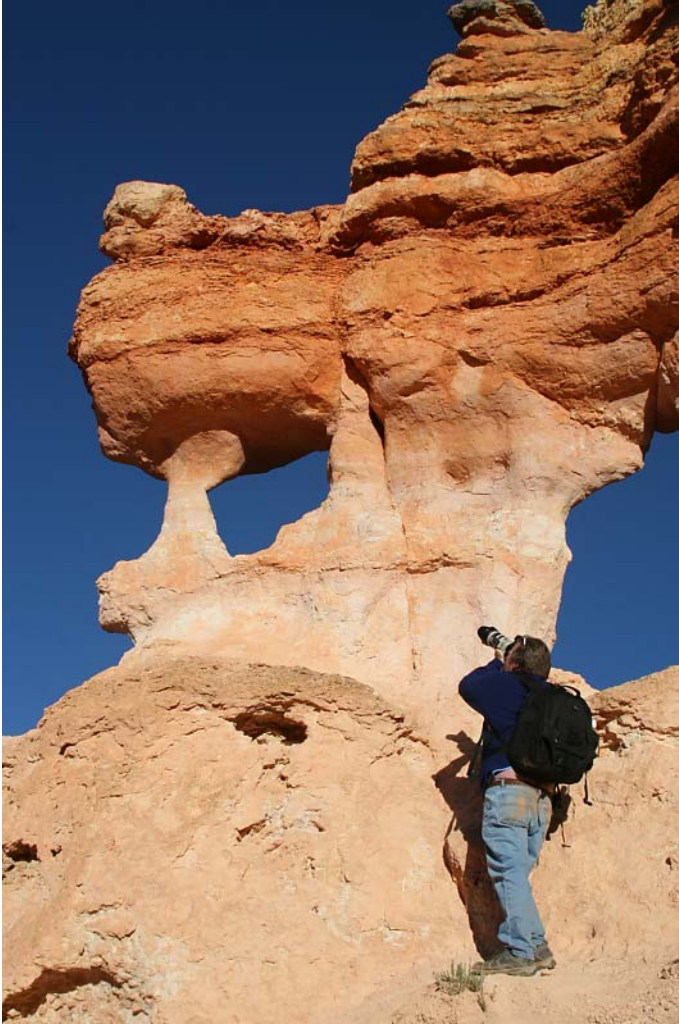
Be well,  
Doug



Bryce Canyon National Park, UT. The Amphitheater.



The unique geology and erosion in the area have created thousands of “hoodoos” in the Bryce Canyon area. They are dramatic and mysterious from afar.



So of course, we had to climb up to get a closer look.  
Photo by Stephanie Hackney.



Steph at the top of the Hoodoos at sunrise.



Climbing the mountain and Hoodoos can be worth it, as some sunrise views are only available from the peak.



Steph with her only drop of the day. Dixie National Forest, UT.



Hill covered in wildflowers. Cedar Breaks National Monument, UT.



Full moon rise. Cedar Breaks National Monument, UT.



Wildflower. Cedar Breaks National Monument. Photo by Stephanie Hackney.





Snake River sunset, Snake River, ID