

Our Zion National Park Adventure

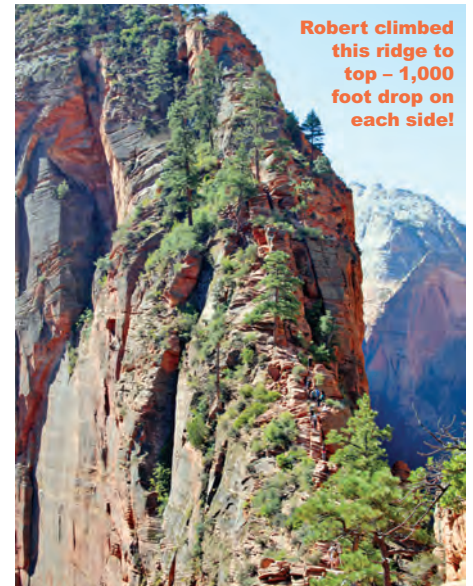
Today, with many hours of riding in the car headed home from Zion National Park, I took advantage of the time to work on this month's newsletter!

After several days of nice weather in the 80s while in Zion, we were surprised when a cold front moved in yesterday. Thus we packed up and left our campsite a day early.

Today we drove across a snow covered desert with snow as deep as 4 inches in places. With the snow covered mountains in the distance, the snow was visibly much deeper!

While at Zion, we waded about a mile and a half up Virgin River on Tuesday going into what is known as The Narrows. The extremely high cliffs on both sides of the river quickly found us in deep shadows where the sun does not penetrate. Often I was in water up to my thighs. The Narrows is the most popular hike in Zion National Park, and one of the world's best canyon hikes.

Yesterday we hiked up to Angels Landing. Again lots of beautiful scenery like the Virgin River offered. Well worth the climb. Angels Landing is the most renowned day hike in Zion National Park, and possibly all of Utah. While only a 5.2-mile round trip with 1,500 feet of elevation gain, this trek has all the magnitude of a bucket list caliber hike akin to Half Dome in Yosemite. I didn't go all the way to the top but Robert did and is very pleased he did. He said it was absolutely astounding. I stopped when we reached the point when chains along the rocks were required for holding onto in order to go higher. It was obvious it was too strenuous for me.

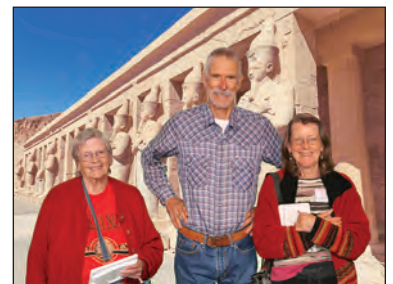


Robert climbed this ridge to top - 1,000 foot drop on each side!

Salt Lake City Austin Convention

Our Zion adventure was preceded with several days in Salt Lake City attending the Austin Families Association of America genealogy convention. My Mom also attended!

Having arrived early, Robert and I took in Antelope Island located in the middle of the Great Salt Lake. There we found bison, both real and fake. Robert really wanted to take one home. We took a hike up Frary Peak Trail and enjoyed exploring a huge, historic farm. At the convention itself, we enjoyed seeing familiar Austins and meeting new ones. And, of course, learning about Austin ancestors. We also checked out the Family Search library. There is a wonderful interactive space at this library now wherein iPads are checked out to make family research more fun. Check us out with our iPads pretending to be in Egypt.



Labor Day Weekend Camping

We took Rylan, Aubrey, and Sierra camping September 1st through 4th. Taking the kids camping is an annual tradition. This year we went to Little Beaver, a campground near Arnold where, with temperatures in the 90s, we enjoyed very short hikes but lots of beach time on a nearby lake.

Time for Dakota too

Dakota and I, along with 3 other teams, placed 2nd & Most Creative in the 2017 "International Dog Team Dance Off": Our performance was called "Hoedown Throwdown." You can view video at <https://youtu.be/dNOMVNzvLjE>



Still showing!