

**Sent:**  
**Subject:**

Saturday, October 22, 2011 12:57 PM  
Postcard (1 of 2)

6:56 AM



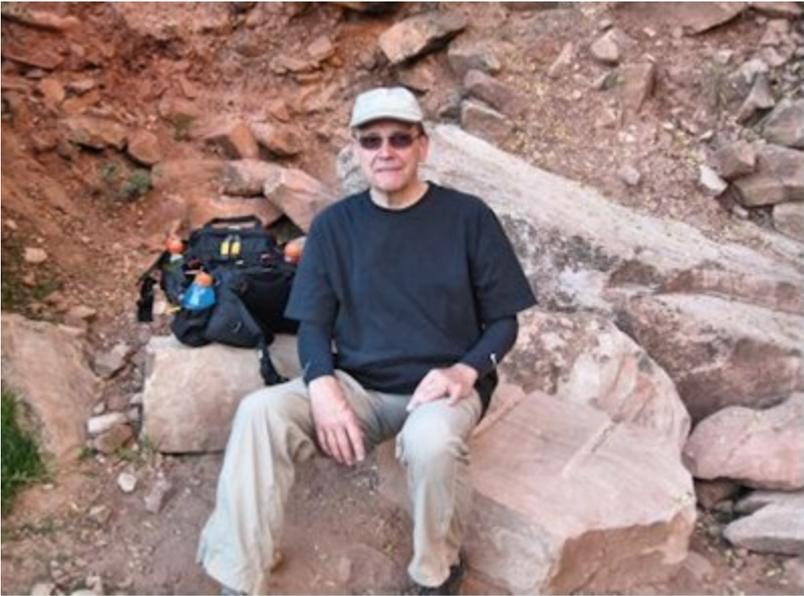
A girl in red takes our picture. It's in the 30's. We are glad. It was supposed to be in the 20's.

6:58 AM



Sunup is here, the tops of the peaks are beginning to glow and that's how we feel too.

8:31 AM



Layer #1 comes off. A bag of trail mix is eaten. That's if wolfing it down is eating. Our motto (one of them, we make this up as we go) is "Don't Bonk".

8:52 AM



The trail is dotted with uppers and downers. The downers are feeling up and many of the uppers are feeling down. The uppers were carrying heavy packs and had already come a long way, some starting in the dark.

9:07 AM



The girl in red goes by on a mule. Other people go by on mules too. Fortunately they stay in a group so you can just let 'em pass one time. Unfortunately their mule train leader (driver? chief? mule Skinner?) has them doing periodic "Yee Haw's" along the trail. Glad to say that at some point they got out of hearing range.

10:19



Made it to Indian Garden. Here we ate our lunch at a picnic table that sits below the trail grade. Looking up we can see folks passing by; looking down we can see our food. Our food is a 960 calorie feast of cheese, whole grain wheat thins, Craisins (dried cranberries with sugar – inedible without the sugar but quite tasty with it) and Planter's wholesome nut mix – cashews, almonds and macadamia nuts. Sheila got 6 macadamias in her pack. I only got one. What's that about?

Still 10:19



This is Jarlsberg Swiss cheese, and it makes the whole lunch tick. It is one of the best “just eating” cheeses on the planet. Also great in omelets or frittatas. It looks like it comes in little wedges but it actually comes in big chunks. I then cut it into random shapes.

The mules were stopped and tied up just below us at Indian Garden. The mule riders were having a cowboy lunch (presumably big plates of beans) and rubbing their bottoms.

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