



### Southwest Mini-Reunion Trip Report

It's not just another scenic view. It's not just another hike. In a 1963 poem Bob Dylan opined you will find God and Woodie Guthrie in the Grand Canyon at sundown. Dylan was on to something. Yes, the views were beyond awesome, the weather was perfect, and the camaraderie alone was worth the trip, but we also came away with a feeling that something deeper had been imparted. The Grand Canyon does that to you.

From April 18 through 21, Jim and Bev Lawrie, Dave and Nancy Dibelius, Scott Reeves and Ginny Ekola-Reeves, Bill and Marsha Adler, Dick and Deb Olson, Ted and Stacey Levin, Allen Ott and Peter Emmel stayed in the Thunderbird and Bright Angel lodges on the South Rim, explored one of America's great national treasures, renewed old friendships, made new ones, and marveled at that inspiring sunset. It's hard to believe how quickly and dramatically the colors of the canyon walls change as the sun drops below the rim.

Jim, Dave, Scott, Bill, Dick, Allen and Peter hiked to the bottom of the canyon on the South Kaibab Trail, spent a night at famous Phantom Ranch, and returned on the Bright Angel Trail. The pain, physical effort and mental challenge of walking 8 to 10 miles a day with more than 4000 feet of elevation change (5 hours down, 8 hours up, we are old guys after all) were a small price to pay for a hike like no other. We emerged tired, dirty, exhilarated, and with a new bond with one another, with the canyon itself, and with the legacy of the many explorers who preceded us. And the perfect excuse for a tall, cold beverage.

The people who stayed on the rim did a lot of walking too, taking in Hermit's Rest, Kolb Studio, Lookout Studio, Hopi House, the Geology Museum, and hiking partway down into the canyon on the South Kaibab trail. Yaki Point was a favorite for the sunset.

Some of the group also visited other great southwest attractions to see beautiful arches, dramatic sunrise over Monument Valley, and the canyons of Lake Powell. There was even a successful expedition to the poker table in Las Vegas lasting until 4:30 AM (are you buying dinner, Allen?).

We wrapped it all up with dinner at the historic El Tovar hotel. The pictures on the class website, beautiful as they are, can scarcely do justice to the memories. If you have ideas for future adventure reunions, send 'em along to Gerry Bell, these trips are lots more fun with a group of great people. And when you see us at the 50<sup>th</sup>, be sure to ask about the Grand Canyon.