

programming. The second was a hospital bed work table I built when my 2 year old nephew broke his leg and was in traction.

I still keep involved in computers to some extent. In Jan to May 2003 I designed, coded and implemented a web-based database for Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance so volunteers could schedule patrols and file reports. In the process I had to teach myself and utilize four computer languages (HTML, JavaScript, ASP and MySQL).

I have long felt that a more rural, self-sufficient life style is where I belong. But also see the benefit of a small true community for sharing of work and enjoying life more effectively. I always enjoy my infrequent volunteer projects where good planning, staging of materials and enthusiastic teamwork make for a fantastic project and impressive result. A group makes for less work and more fun.

Future Direction:

I plan to sell my house in Louisville in Spring, 2004. With the equity I want to build a passive solar house which would be debt free.

I have been extensively researching various options and sustainable, off-grid approaches.

Many of the concepts of Earthships make a lot of sense; however, manually ramming hundreds of tires does not appeal to me. I have become very interested in straw bale construction and think the Earthship south facing U design could be adapted to straw bale for very effective above ground structures. Such structures would still incorporate systems like water collection, greywater treatment, minimal to no black water (compost toilets) and solar and/or wind power.

I also want to get to a more agrarian lifestyle for personal food needs.

Finding a community of like-minded people to share the ideas, the work and the rewards is my current goal.

In 1981 I guided a group of 5th and 6th graders in building solar cookers from cardboard and aluminum foil. Conclude with a “cook-out” in February.

I volunteered for Boulder City Open Space and Mountain Parts as a Volunteer Naturalist for 4 years (1999-2002). I have been volunteering for Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance as a Wilderness Volunteer for 2 years. And in 2003 volunteered with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) on many trail work and restoration projects. Most of this WRV effort was photo-documentation with some hands on work. Assisted the Forest Service for 3 days in constructing a 30 foot log bridge in the wilderness (no power tools).

My former employer held a “Global Volunteer Day”, where its employees, family and friends throughout the world partner with their communities on volunteer projects. I participated on these for 4 years. Two of those years I was my division’s Coordinator. This meant finding and directing project leaders in identifying, defining and planning projects as well as recruiting volunteers. One year we had 150 volunteers working on 12 projects around the city on the same day. I convinced a special pre-school we could excavate, frame, pour and finish several concrete projects in on day. And we did!

My favorite book is Walden Two by B. F. Skinner, which I first read in high school and re-read every few years. Written in 1948, it was not well received as it is a discussion of changing culture through community living for greater efficiency (at the time a “Socialist” idea). In my mind it presents some very logical arguments for changing the way we do things and some of those ideas are seen today in co-housing and eco-village communities. While not the emphasis of the book, it is interesting that the housing description is of a rammed earth, earth-sheltered, passive-solar structure.

I tend to read and absorb a lot of material and “assimilate” it into what I think is a good combination of a better product or implementation. For example, two passive solar hot water heaters are the “batch heater” and “thermal siphoning”. The second may work best in the winter, but be limited in summer. But the “batch heater” tank could serve both. I am wondering if they can be effectively and inexpensively combined.

I also tend to become totally focused on a project or activity and devote considerable time to it in a short period. I find I can go from novice to reasonably accomplished in months, where others have spent years. This is generally because I will spend the same hours others spread over years in just months. Example: In one season of sailboat racing I went from dead last to beating the number 2 and 3 boats in the fleet one race. It was my second season ever on a sailboat!

The other thing I do is look to get multiple results from the same effort. I see some of the “sustainable effort” groups doing this. While constructing something for themselves, they take a little extra time to document it so it can be provide to others as books or workshops. These often produce income for the community. Twice I turned projects into published magazine articles. The first was using graphics to teach kids computer

Dave Kirchner
727 Pine Needle Lane
Louisville, Co 80027
303-604-9645
KirchnreDavidR@yahoo.com

Born 3/14/54 (age 49) in Baltimore, Maryland. Moved to Littleton, Colorado 1956.
Single (never married). Parents living in southern California, both 80+. Four brothers, 2
southern California, 1 in Switzerland working for next 2 years, 1 in Seattle, Wa.

1956-1976 Littleton, Co
1976-1998 Northeast Denver
1998-Present Louisville, Co (east of Boulder)

Accounting Degree from University of Denver, with equivalent of minor in Computer.

1976-2001 Worked in business in various positions involving computer programming
and computer user support. Also designed and gave introductory computer courses for
ages 6 to 60. This included volunteering at an elementary school when the Apple II was
state-of-the-art. Developed an extensive computer aided learning series of programs for
math and language for the Apple and Commodore computers.

2001-present Pursuing photography (landscape/nature and some action sports).

Other experience and interests:

Family built a summer cabin in mountain valley west of Monarch Pass when I was about
8 or 9. Being the second of five boys, I seemed to always go with my older brother on
new projects.

When I was 13 dad started a part-time roofing business following a major hail storm.
During the summer my dad, four brothers and I would haul and nail shingles about 25-30
hours per week. A couple years later we started doing concrete work replacing driveways
or adding patios. We put an 8 ft by 40 ft attached covered patio on my first house.

Dad is a do-it-yourself, jack-of-all-trades, scrounger guy, and passed a lot of that attitude
on to me. Over the years I have tried organic gardening, built a greenhouse and used
wood heat for 15 years (dad and I made two woodstoves).

I have an extensive wood shop and have made things from small children toys to
playhouses, and furniture. I also have some skills in drafting and drawing. I even took a
pottery class in college.