



The Reel west newsletter

I spent the night in Alamosa. At various times it was either snowing or raining. In the morning it was hard to turn the locks on the truck cap due to freezing. But it never really seemed that cold. I had only a hooded sweatshirt and light jacket on.

My plan today is to head east to I-25 then north to Denver and Kevin & Thea's new condo in Thornton. Main sights are the mountains of course, Pueblo and Colorado Springs. I will be checking on things to see once I get there.

Day 19
Tuesday
April 19th

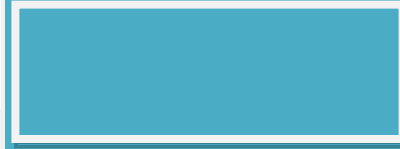
Alamosa, Colorado
to
Kevin & Thea's

Weather
High Temp: 53+
Low Temp: TBD
Conditions: Snow, rain, snow



The picture above was actually taken after the three pics below, but they needed the full width to be effective. If you are wondering what the black line is above, that pic is taken at 65 MPH, through the windshield. It is hard to avoid the antenna.

So just sit back and enjoy the scenery.

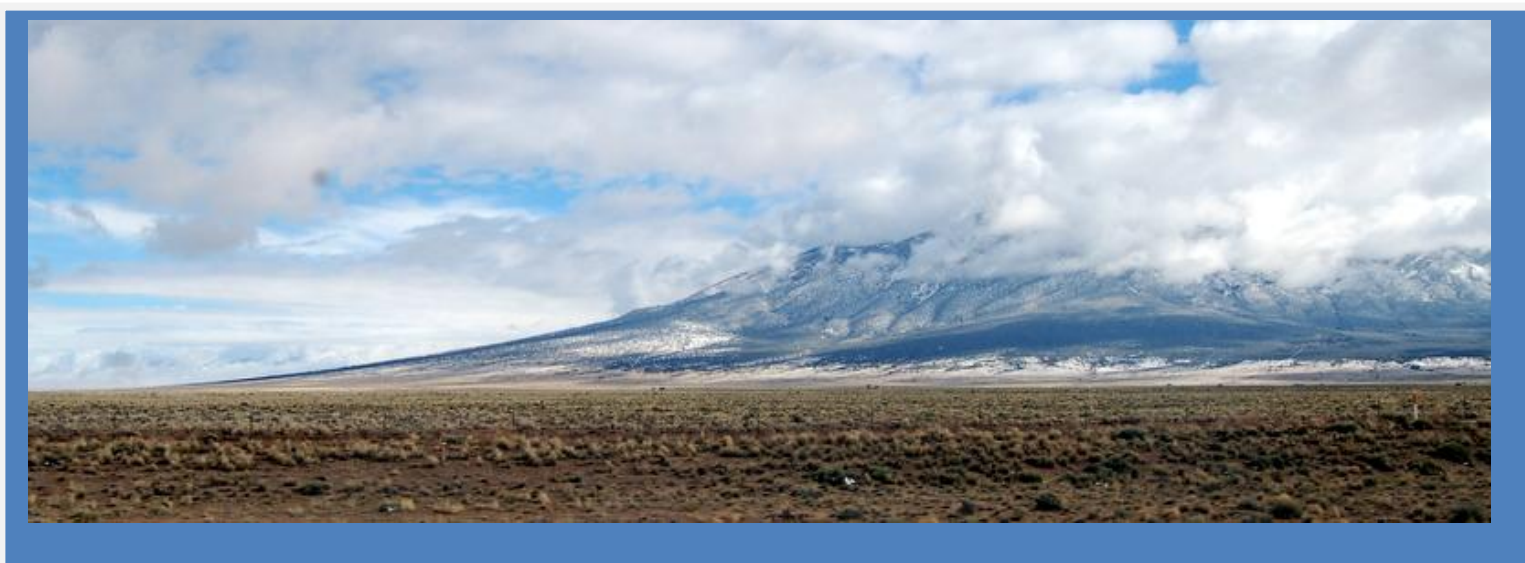




Leaving Alamosa I pulled over to take this photo of the clouds looking north.....



...and from the same spot took this photo of the clouds to the south east.



This one makes me think of the vast plains starting their rise to the foothills and then peaks of the Rockies.



Below - Holy Cow!!! You can just see that car in the left lane coming towards me out of that low flying cloud. It was all clear, then suddenly, no visibility. Lasted about 5-7 miles.



I stopped for gas in Walsenberg and picked up I-25 north. I could only find a scenic drive in Pueblo that it recommended allowing 3.5-4 hours to drive. I did not want to take that long here since I knew I wanted to visit the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, so I just waved to Pueblo as I passed on through.



Above is my view for lunch from the Garden of the Gods Visitor Center parking lot, Colorado Springs



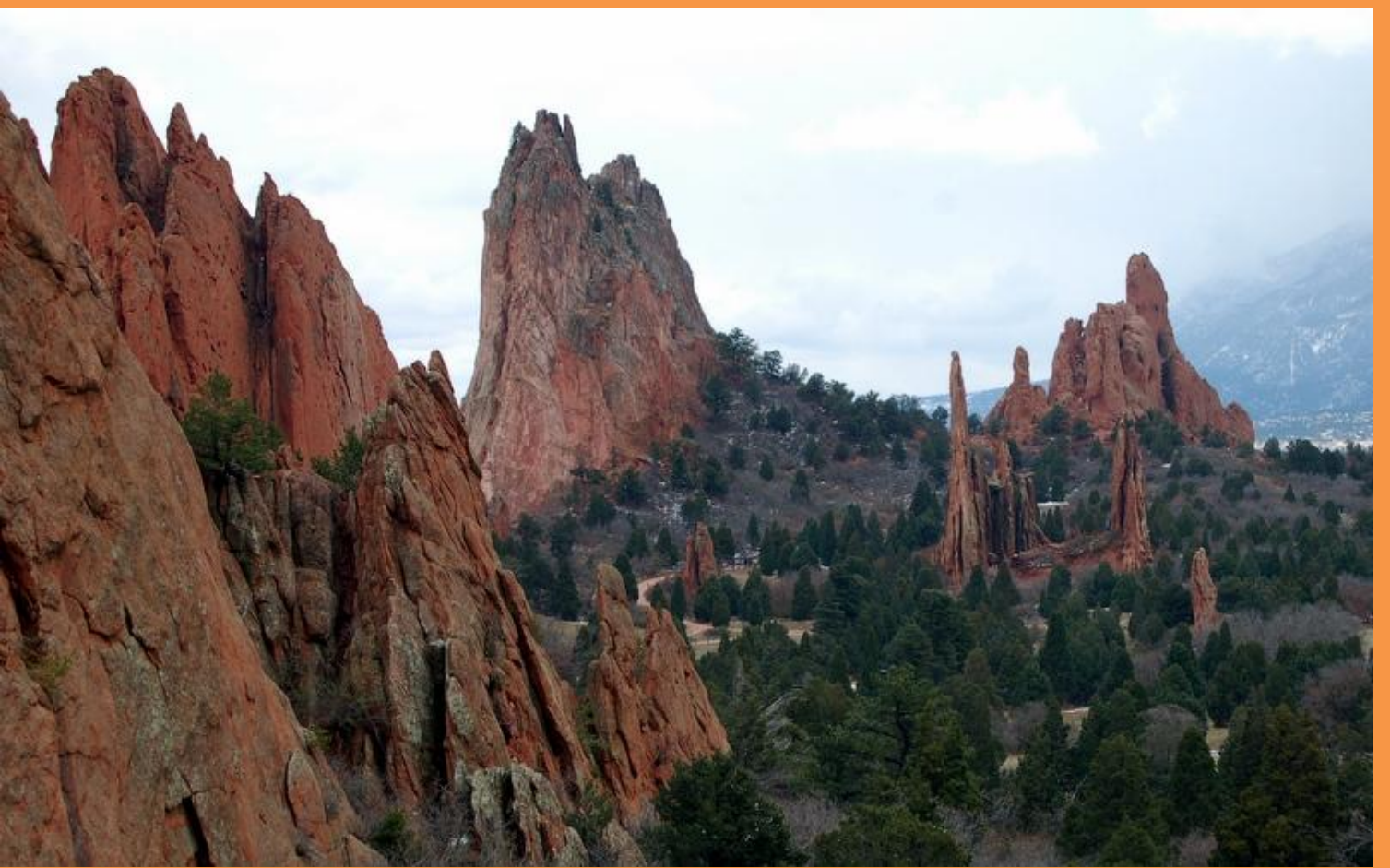
The Visitor Center was very up-to-date and well done. Unfortunately, I hurried inside to use the facilities and did not take the camera. Once back out at the truck I didn't feel like walking back up there.



Wow! This rock does not look that impressive until you get right next to it like this. The photo does not do it justice. It just looms over you, daring you NOT to be impressed.

It is just not possible with photos to convey the majesty of this rock. It has several different names, or at least different sections of it have different names, so I won't name them here.

Below is kind of an end view.



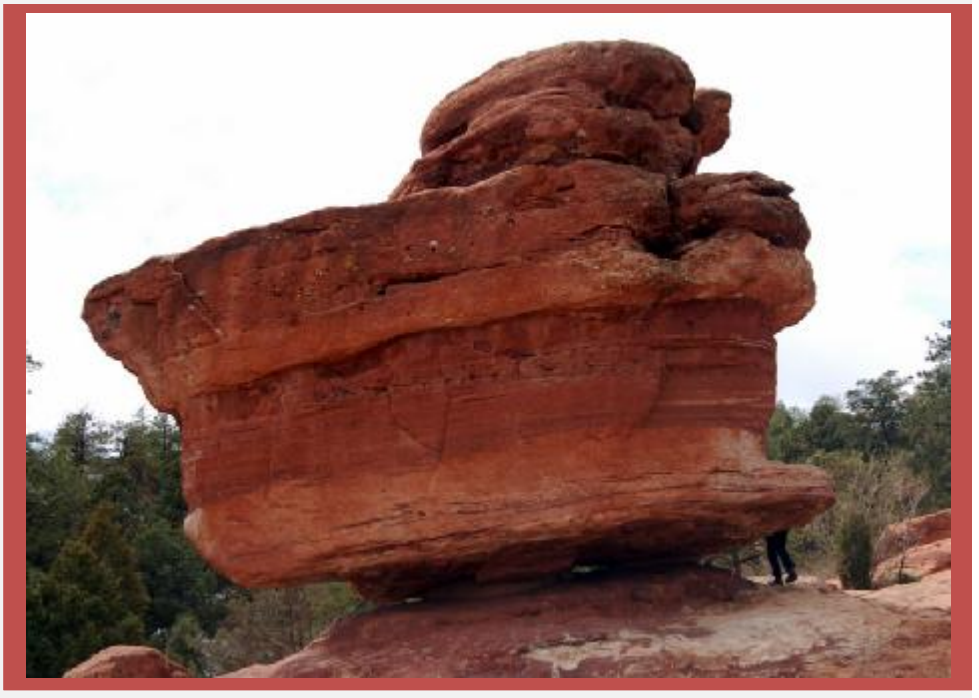
Directly left is the back side of the last two pictures. Then there are several more formations, all with names. I missed this shot the first time around, found out I could not see the smaller formations without hiking to them (which I wish I had the time to do) and took this photo. Then, in double checking the rock names, I found the website has almost this exact photo.



This is called the Giants Footprints. Not sure exactly why. I thought I had to take a short hike to see them and found myself on a trail that circles the entire park. I did realize it after about 100 yards right, back track, 100 yards left, back track, this must be it.

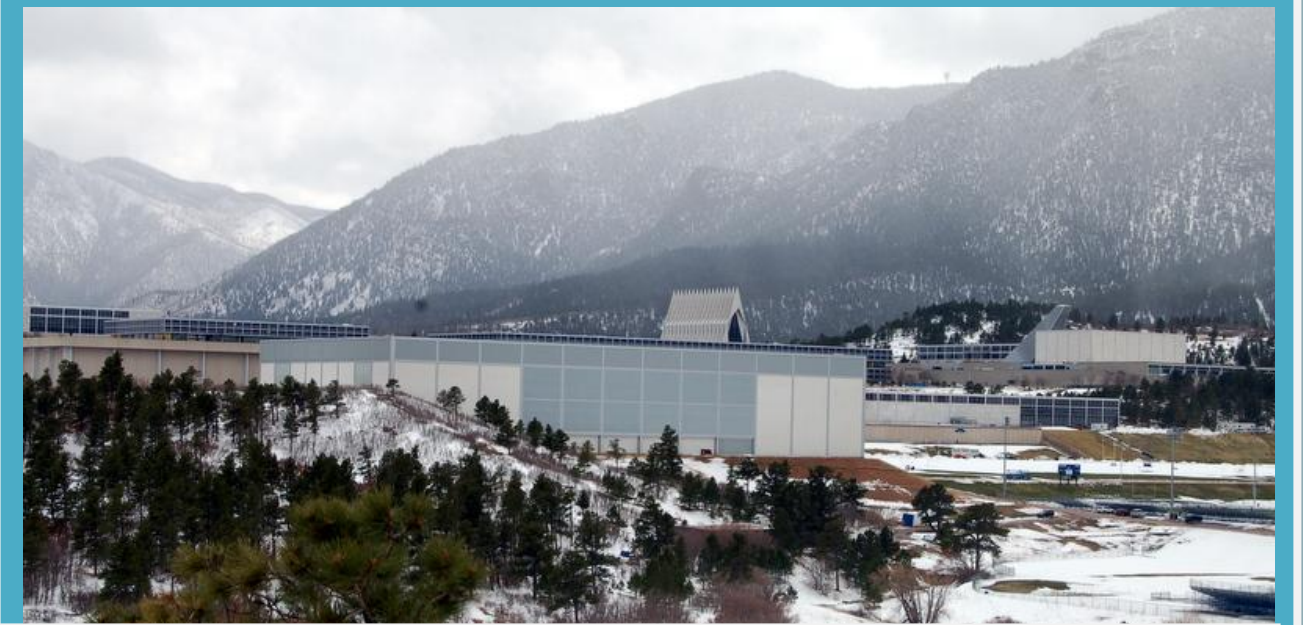
This is Balancing Rock. Hard to get a photo without someone climbing on it.

That gap was not a whole lot wider than my truck, and the gap coming back was even more narrow.





Below is an overview of the campus. I didn't realize it was right against the mountains.



Above - Not sure what sport those cadets are practicing down there, but these are the athletic fields.



Left - There were four deer on the road when I pulled into the turnout for the pictures above. By the time I pulled back out, this was all I could see of them.

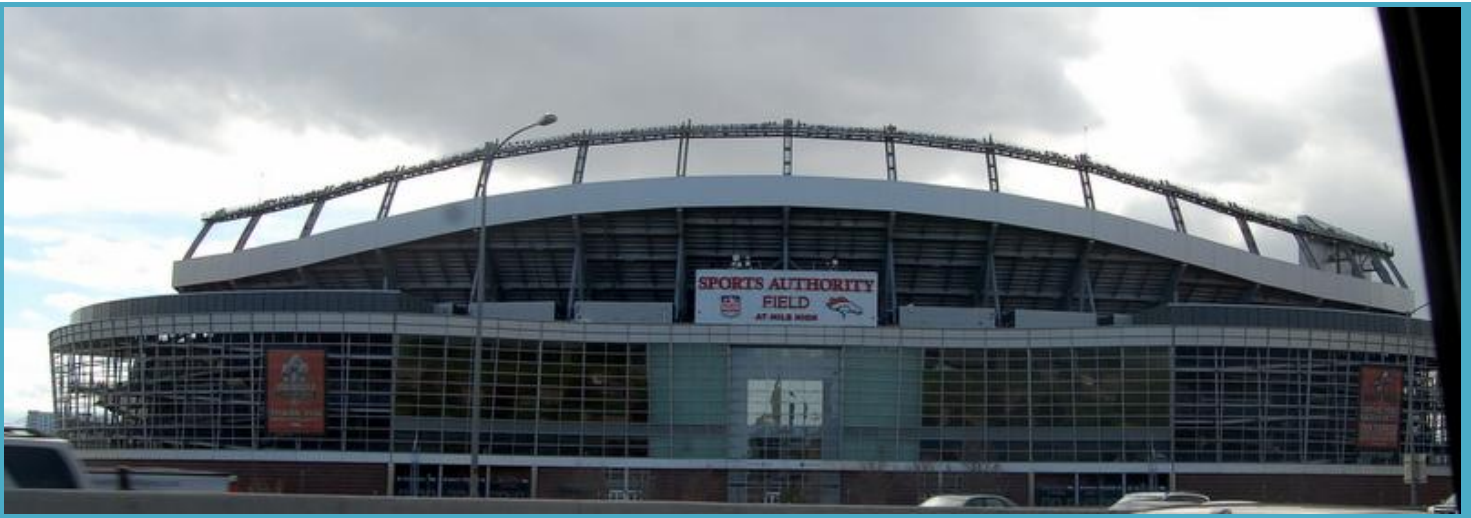


There it is. That's what I came for. My interest in architecture has pushed me for years to try and see this sight in person. The Air Force Academy Chapel. Impressive.



A real B-52 Bomber





All right, I just had to snap it. Sports Authority Field, Home of the Super Bowl Champion Denver Broncos.....Boooo!



This was at Kevin & Thea's new place. It looks like Jimmy Fallon is watching the cat sneak behind the TV.

The cat, when adopted, was named Gus. After he had six kittens the name was changed to Kaitlin Jenner. Get it?



Now it seems like Jimmy is looking directly at the cat.



Ironically, Fallon IS talking about a cat at the same time Kaitlin is crossing in front of the screen.

Tomorrow is another day.

Good Night,

Ace