



Autumn Festival Time

I noticed the full moon a week ago, associated with the Autumn Festival in China. Most Americans do not recognize that tradition. I do not celebrate it either. But this time the part about visiting relatives did apply.

The younger son, Tyler, of my second brother came with his mother, Karen, to investigate what it would take for Tyler to study at the Colorado School of Mines, a challenging engineering school. So we toured that campus during the morning of Wednesday, 26 September, and had a session with an advisor. In the afternoon we had a tour of the nearby Red Rocks Community College, a 2-year school with easier admissions standards. He has the option of getting some required courses done at Red Rocks and then transferring to Mines later.

Before they returned to their home near Rochester, New York, my wife and I took them on a trip into the mountains Thursday morning. We crossed a high mountain pass where the temperature was 0 deg. C and it was snowing. We returned through a long tunnel through the high mountain ridge and enjoyed the yellow aspen trees that were in contrast with the dark green pine, spruce, and fir trees. Then we stopped at the Phoenix Gold Mine. Tyler and Karen toured the inside of the mine, but Gail and I stayed outside because we had been in there several times previously. We had fun feeding large numbers of chipmunks some sunflower seeds. They were sometimes crawling over our arms and shoulders for their free food.



On Saturday Gail and I flew to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and drove to Amery, a small town in northwestern Wisconsin. We visited our older daughter, Michelle, and her family. She and her husband, Gehrig, are both family practice medical doctors. One night Michelle had to help deliver a baby at their local hospital. The other attraction was to see their

children, our grandchildren. Son Hans is three years old. Daughter Elin is a half year old.

They recently bought a large house on about 4 hectares (10 acres) of land, on the side of a hill overlooking a small river and having farm land on other sides.



The right photo shows Gail on the left, Michelle and Elin on the right, and Gehrig near the house.



On Sunday afternoon we went to Osceola, a town on the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin. We walked to a waterfall. Then we rode on an old train through the forests, crossing the river mid-way. The train ride took 80 minutes for the round trip. We saw a beaver dam (photo below) and enjoyed the autumn colors.



Eastern Bluebird



Red-bellied Woodpecker



American Coot

We returned home Wednesday, 3 October.

Ed Holroyd, 6 October 2012