

SeisNOTES

A Newsletter From



ECHO GEOPHYSICAL
CORPORATION
INTEGRITY · STABILITY · INNOVATION

Vol. 11, Number 1

Bob Vite's eye for detail serves him well

By: Steve Gardiner

During the three years that ECHO Geophysical Analyst Bob Vite was a professional photographer, he developed an eye for detail.

"I really enjoy taking cityscape nighttime photographs," Vite said. "There is a real challenge in finding just the right instant when the light comes alive."

That attention to detail, in addition to his willingness to work hard and learn, has sent him on a successful career path.

"Bob's long time presence on ECHO Geophysical's staff and his incredible growth into a geophysical processing analyst have given him an excellent reputation in processing 3-D

and 2-D data sets in the Permian and Val Verde Basins," said ECHO President John Jancik. "It is a real success story of a person learning the world of seismic data processing."

Vite, who has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business, worked at ECHO from 1996-2002 as a refractions analyst, then returned in 2005. "The years I spent in geometry/refractions helped me build a strong foundation of understanding a variety of shooting in both the 2-D and 3-D worlds," Vite said. "ECHO's data pools allow us to work with just about every vintage of seismic you can imagine. This experience made the transition to Geophysical Analyst much smoother. Additionally, ECHO

has a staff of seasoned Senior Analysts to consult with. A lot of processing comes down to problem solving, and there are not a lot of problems that the ECHO staff hasn't seen."

Vite credits Dr. Bill Wepfer with giving him valuable training and Rick Steineck with providing a strong example of hard work and client service. "I would look at someone like Rick Steineck and try to emulate or model myself after what he has done and the career he has carved out for himself at ECHO," Vite said.

The size of the company and the opportunity to learn and progress contribute to Vite's enjoyment of his current position. He said, "It's a company where

Continued on Page 2



Bob Vite, geophysical analyst, on the summit of Quandary Peak, one of Colorado's Fourteeners.

Bob Vite.....Continued from Page 1

individuals get the opportunity to excel if they put in the hard work. Sometimes at a larger company, this is not the case. You can get lost in the shuffle and even stagnate because your skills are not continually being challenged.” ECHO’s Vice President of Operations, Janet McGuire, adds, “Bob is the kind of person who can adapt

well to change, which is an essential skill in a small company. That ability along with his technical knowledge and strong work ethic have really helped him blaze a successful path.”

Vite recently became a first-time homebuyer. “I’m learning the trials and tribulations of home ownership from the roller coaster ride of negotiat-

ing the deal to the realization that you will be doing a lot of yard work,” Vite said. I have learned that the whole process can be fraught with problems but usually does work out in the end.”

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 303.893.9014

Bob Vite: bvite@echogeo.com

Nielsen and Morse race the Vineman Half Ironman triathlon in California

By: *Steve Gardiner*

Anyone would love a little California sun in the summer, but when ECHO employees Kirsten Nielsen and Jessica Morse headed west, they weren’t planning to lie on the beach. They had more ambitious goals and entered the Vineman Half Ironman race in Windsor. This race would take them on a 1.2 mile swim, a 56 mile bike ride, and 13.1 mile run.

“It was 100 % worth it,” Nielsen said. “We were very well prepared for everything except the heat. It was over 100 degrees. They had ice at some of the aid stations, so I put ice inside my hat to help cool down.”

Nielsen and Morse have raced together before. Last year they completed the Chicago Marathon, and as part of their training for the Vineman, they raced in two shorter triathlons earlier this summer--a short sprint distance triathlon and a middle distance Olympic triathlon.

“We trained for 4 ½ months, six days per week,” Morse, ECHO Vice President of Business

Development, said. “Five days each week we did two workouts per day with Friday being an off day or rest day. We did four swims per week, three bike rides per week, three runs per week, and a one hour hike or walk per week. Kirsten and I tried to do as much training together as we could, and it ended up being about three or four workouts each week. That was very helpful when we were struggling with motivation and needed that extra push.”

The challenge wasn’t just physical. “We were working 40+ hours each week and training 15-18 hours per week. That was a challenge,” said Nielsen, ECHO Sales Manager.

Morse added, “The training was pretty grueling, and trying to find a balance with work, family, social, and training was a bit difficult. I know my family had to suffer a bit, and I wouldn’t have been able to do it without the support of my husband.”

There were hazards to the training, as well. Morse was riding her bike to work one morning three weeks before

the California race. Her bike slipped on a bridge, and she ended up cracking a rib and her helmet, leaving her with a slight concussion. She had to rearrange her training program to accommodate her recovery. She said, “I had to push through a few of the workouts so that I had the peace of mind that I could actually do the race; however, my confidence was a bit shattered. Thanks to some good friends that helped talk me down from the panic stricken ledge the day before I departed from Denver, I was able to shift my focus to just finishing the race.”

Nielsen said the course was “physically challenging. The running and biking segments of the race were hilly which made portions of the race difficult. It was very rewarding to finish this race, and I would definitely do another half Ironman in the future.”

Morse is also looking toward the future. “I have a lot of races in my near future. I’m going to

Continued on Page 4

Determination and work ethic lead to success at ECHO for Matt Romero

By: Steve Gardiner

Several times each week, Matt Romero heads to the golf course to play a round against his toughest opponent—Matt Romero.

“The best thing about golf is that you are playing against yourself,” Romero said. “There are usually other people there, but what you are really doing is trying to beat your own score from the round before.”

Romero is a member of the Broadlands Golf Course but often plays at several courses around the Denver area. He enjoys the mental challenge the game requires.

“You have to focus on specific shots,” he said. “You have to concentrate on what you are doing at that moment.”

That focus has helped him have a successful first year at ECHO Geophysical Corporation where he serves as Director of Program Development. He is responsible for both bringing new data into the seismic data pools and selling licenses to the data pools.

ECHO President John Jancik said, “The addition of Matt Romero to the marketing staff has been a real plus for ECHO Geophysical. His determination, work ethic and creditability have been a unique combination that has led him to success even in these lean budgetary times. As the saying goes, the sky is the limit for Matt.”



Matt Romero is the Director of Program Development at ECHO Geophysical Corporation

His determination, work ethic and creditability have been a unique combination that has led him to success even in these lean budgetary times. As the saying goes, the sky is the limit for Matt.”

ECHO President John Jancik.

Romero, 30, grew up in Durango, Colorado. He attended the University of Arizona for two years before transferring to the University of Colorado where he graduated with a finance degree. Prior to joining ECHO, Matt was the Vice President of Sales and Services for a company called Veracity Credit Consultants that specializes in helping people improve their credit ratings. Matt was the fourth employee hired by the company which now has more than 100 employees.

“I really enjoy working at ECHO. It is a very good working environment and has the feel of a family operation,” Romero said. “The company is excellent, and the product we put out is great. The data pool concept is unique and provides a lot of value for both current and future clients. The data pools allow us to provide seismic to companies that wouldn’t have access to that data otherwise.”

In addition to playing golf, Romero enjoys attending Colorado Rockies baseball games and “cheering for the home team.” He also keeps busy with projects at home. He recently refinished his basement and is building a new garden.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 303.893.9014

Matt Romero:

mromero@echogeo.com

Triathlon

Continued from Page 2

race in the Muddy Buddy, the Backcountry Trail Race 10 Mile, and both Kirsten and I are going to run the Denver Half Marathon and the Walt Disney World Marathon. Next year I will be focusing on X-terra triathlons which consist of lake swimming, mountain biking and trail running.”

Triathlons have given Morse a focal point in her life that she enjoys. “I love exercise. It pushes me to lead a healthy lifestyle. I thrive on setting goals and accomplishing them regardless of the size. I love to challenge myself and try new things. I also hope it sets an example for my daughters who are 9 and 15 so that they, too, have the ability to go in the direction they want in life if they set realistic goals and work hard to achieve them. Training for and participating in these races are a part of what makes life an adventure, and to me, adventure is what life is all about.”



Jessica Morse and Kirsten Nielsen celebrate their successful finish of the Vineman Half Ironman Triathlon in California this summer.

2009 Nearest the Sun expedition faces challenges on South American volcanoes

By Steve Gardiner, SeisNotes Editor

Focus of a Summer

In the light of a midnight full moon, the icy ridges of Chimborazo, the highest peak in Ecuador, were gleaming white, stretching thousands of feet into the sky above us. The air was chilly, perfect for the effort climbing would require. A thin layer of clouds filtered the moonlight, but it was still bright enough to climb without headlamps.



John Jancik, Jennifer Pauley, and Steve Gardiner reach the summit of Illiniza Norte (16,817 feet elevation) in Ecuador in July. Photo by Dr. Joe Sears.

Nearest the Sun.....Continued from Page 4

Our trail left the Whymper Hut at 15,500 feet elevation. The summit was more than 5,000 feet above us, and we hoped to stand there by 8:00 in the morning. We expected a long, strenuous night.

I was climbing with ECHO President John Jancik from Denver, ECHO Manager of Program Development Jennifer Pauley, from Moline, Illinois, and my longtime friend and college roommate Dr. Joe Sears from Kennewick, Washington. Only a month before, the same team had climbed to the summit of Mt. Shasta (14,162 feet) in California as part of our training for Chimborazo.

We had traveled to Ecuador on July 1st, and on July 4th we celebrated America's birthday by driving four hours south of Quito to climb Illiniza Norte, a rocky volcano 16,817 feet high. Even though heavy fog limited our visibility all day, our group had been strong, climbing quickly and efficiently through

the paramo, a landscape of low shrubs, and onto a rocky ridge featuring stone towers glazed with rime ice. We spent ten minutes on a windy, freezing summit before making a hasty descent. Strange to think we had climbed a mountain we had never seen. The next day we learned where we had been from a poster in a travel agency in downtown Quito.

Illiniza had been a good climb, but Chimborazo was the centerpiece of the summer. It is a massive block of a mountain, and setting out at midnight to climb it left us humbled.

History of a Dream

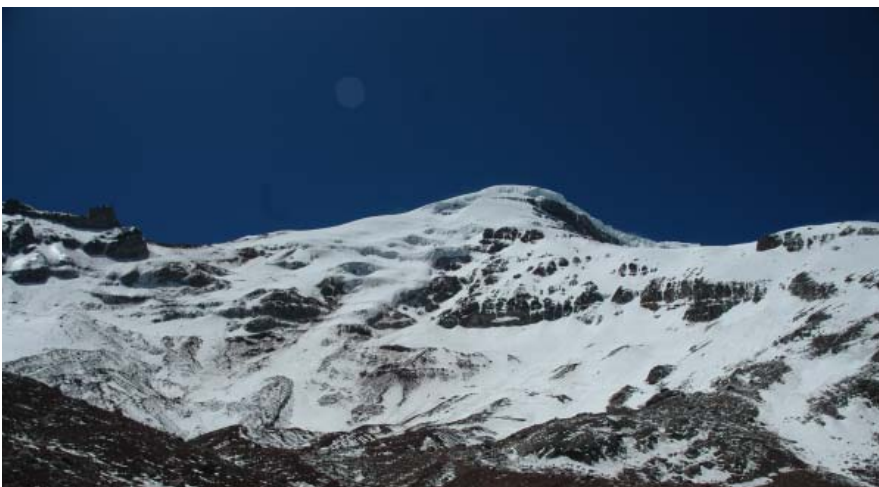
I first saw Chimborazo 26 years ago. It was January 1983. My wife Peggy and I had just finished a year of teaching at the American School in Lima, Peru, and we were on a three-month journey around South America. Our first stop outside Peru had been Ecuador, and we had quickly fallen in love with

the country. I knew someday I would return to climb Chimborazo.

The idea of glaciers on volcanoes on the equator was intriguing. In addition, the summit of Chimborazo, because of the equatorial bulge, has the distinction of being the point farthest from the center of the earth. I found myself thinking about the 20,702 foot peak many times as Peggy and I ventured through Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. By the time we got to Uruguay in late February, I wrote a letter to my friend Joe Sears, telling him about Ecuador and my dream of returning there to climb.

We talked about Ecuador from time to time, but years passed. In 1996, Joe and I met ECHO President John Jancik when we were members of the Top of the World Expedition to North Peary Land, Greenland. At one point, the topic of Chimborazo came up, and John was interested. We launched the 1998 Nearest The Sun Expedition, but a variety of work-related problems and family emergencies prevented the team from meeting in Quito. Chimborazo remained a dream.

Our group went to Greenland again in 2001, to Kilimanjaro in Africa in 2002, and to Aconcagua in Argentina in 2005. Occasionally on those expeditions, we discussed Chimborazo, and finally, this year we created the 2009 Nearest the Sun Expedition.



Because of the equatorial bulge, the summit of Chimborazo in Ecuador (20,702 feet elevation) is the point farthest from the center of the earth. Photo by John Jancik.

Nearest the Sun.....Continued from Page 1

Experience of a climb

It's an odd feeling to come face-to-face with a dream. Those first steps up the slopes of Chimborazo seemed unreal. For 26 years I had known about this mountain, had an image of it in my mind, and now we were touching it, walking on it, experiencing it.

The first hour of climbing was on a marginal trail over



Steve Gardiner on the north face of Illiniza Norte (Elevation: 16,817 feet) surrounded by rime ice. Photo by John Jancik.

the main ridge and be on a direct line toward the summit. We were excited about that, but more concerned that the wind speed was increasing rapidly and the temperature was falling.


We climbed across The Corridor, and near the upper end we faced a wind that was now staggering. Sleet cut into our faces as we confronted a new hazard—the wind was picking up small rocks from the cliffs above and throwing them down on us. We had rocks bounce off our helmets and backpacks. One larger rock crashed into my shoulder. A small rock hit Jennifer in the cheek. We sat down on the glacier, and because of the wind, we were shouting at each other even though we were only a foot or two apart.

We could see one other climbing team above us, and four others were following. No one had much hope with the weather conditions deteriorating so quickly. We were at 17,500 feet elevation. A lot of mountain remained, and we could hear the roar of the wind racing across the summit. It was getting dangerous, and it was worse above us. It was time to go back.

All six teams turned back that night. We didn't stand on the summit of Chimborazo, the point on earth nearest the sun. We did, however, experience an impressive storm on a great mountain, dealt with it appropriately, and spent time in Ecuador with friends. Not a bad way to spend part of a summer.

crumbled lava. We crossed a flat basin, climbed onto a ridge, and followed it directly toward the first glacier. At the ice, we stopped to put metal-spiked crampons on our boots. The temperature had dropped considerably since we had left the hut, and our fingers were numb working with the straps to secure the crampons. The wind was increasing, and we were happy to start climbing again.

We climbed a switchback section called the ZigZag to reach the bottom of a long ramp known as The Corridor. This ramp turned us to the right, and we passed below some steep, ice-crusting cliffs below a large rock tower called The Castle. We knew that when we reached The Castle, we would turn onto



SeisNOTES
is a publication of
ECHO Geophysical Corporation,
990 South Broadway
Suite 220
Denver, Colorado 80209
Phone --303-893-9014
Fax--303-893-4050
email--denver@echogeo.com

For more information contact:
Denver
John Jancik, President
email--jjancik@echogeo.com
Jessica Morse, VP of Business
Development and Marketing
email--jmorse@echogeo.com
Janet McGuire, Vice President
of Operations
email--jmcguire@echogeo.com

Houston
Kent Johnson
Phone--281-748-6278
email--kjohanson@echogeo.com

Editor--Steve Gardiner
segardiner@rocketmail.com
Copyright 2009 by ECHO
Geophysical Corporation

50 FOR TIBET
www.50ForTibet.org