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## Xplorer: Joe Bakel

**Age:** 45

**Family:** Married 22 years to Mercedes; one son Chris, 12 years old; two cats, Chico and Patches

**Occupation:** Part owner of DGCD, Inc., electrical engineering design and layout services company

**Born/raised:** Shenandoah Valley in Virginia

**Current residence:** Old Town area of Fort Collins

**Outdoor passions/adventures:** Completed seven Horsetooth 10K Open Water Swims; two swims from Alcatraz; two Ironman Canadas; all 15 Boulder Peak triathlons; 12 Marathons, biked from Fort Collins to Steamboat in one day and countless shorter swims, triathlons and running races. Also enjoy skiing, snowboarding, trail running, hiking and camping with my son's Boy Scout Troop 188.

**Wildest outdoors experience?:** The night before we climbed Mount Lindsay, I woke up in the middle of the night as some animal started chewing my blond hair thinking it was straw.

**Most memorable outdoor experience?** As we all walked dressed in black wetsuits that made us look like seals from an aquatic park to the boat that would take us to Alcatraz, a homeless drunk woke up from his early morning stupor, stared at us, mumbled "Shark bait" and proceeded to pass out again.

**Worst job?** Working as temporary construction help before going to college. I spent most of my time carrying things. This was challenging since I was the stereotypical 90-pound weakling.

**Childhood ambition?** To become a couch potato, I am not sure where I went wrong.

**If you could invite someone to dinner, who would it be?** Someone who could cook.

**Something about you that most people don't know?** I won second place in State in Switch Side Debating when I was in high school

**Something you'd like to do before you die?** Bike touring in Europe.

**One outdoor activity you'd like to take up?** Marathon swimming (Swim around Manhattan Island or English Channel)

**One outdoor activity that doesn't interest you in the least?** Fishing

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