

(DRAFT) Improving Gary's Work-Life Balance: Late Summer & Fall Remote Schedule 2017

Gary Tempus

July 3, 2018

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Remote Working Environments Defined	3
2.1	Traditional	3
2.2	Front-country	3
2.3	Back-country	4
3	Remote Schedule	5
3.1	Basic Working Parameters	5
3.2	ABC - Advanced Base Camp	5
3.3	Lions, Dinosaurs and Bears	5
3.4	Project Dark Skies (<i>Vacation/Unpaid</i>)	5
3.5	A Mighty Fortress	6
3.6	Thank God I'm A Country Boy!	6
3.7	Return to the Shire (<i>Unpaid</i>)	6
4	Conclusion	6

1 Introduction

Traveling and the Great Outdoors are huge parts of my family's life. Now that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are old enough, and my work flexible enough, we are ready to resume our *life in the woods* that [REDACTED] and I have been away from for far too long.

A trip such as this has long been an ambition of ours. So much so that I talked about remote options with [REDACTED] during my interview. She may recall that prior to me receiving [REDACTED] job offer [REDACTED] and I were preparing to accept a position in Colorado.

Living in the back-country is not without its challenges. *Working* in the back-country ups the ante. For my entire career at [REDACTED] I have researched, practiced and promoted the use of low-bandwidth tools to enable higher-bandwidth interactions with the individuals I work with every day in the office or away. This is not a coincidence; I have been training for this very opportunity from day one.

We expect to take our vast majority of hard knocks before we even head west. My expectation is that our trip is merely an execution of all the technical excellence we will have learned by rigorous experimentation here at home. It would be naive to think that there will be no problems. The lessons learned here, at home, will help us surmount the dragons we are confronted with in the field. We will be prepared.

I want to thank [REDACTED] and now Sparkbox very much for even considering this proposal. My tech research has occupied much of my free time for months now. [REDACTED] sacrifices the same amount of time researching compact, comfortable and reliable tools and techniques to make a home for us on the road. The only request the children have made is that they sleep in their own beds on Christmas Eve. That request will be honored!

2 Remote Working Environments Defined

2.1 Traditional

The *traditional* remote work environment is exactly the same as it is for other full-time remote employees. I will have multiple places to choose to work during core business hours (home, library, university, coffee shop, etc).

Therefore we can expect:

- Several network access redundancies
 - Remedy a bad connection in less than 1 hour
- Availability during core business hours
- No bandwidth limitations (vox, data, video, etc)

2.2 Front-country

The *front-country* remote work environment adds a few constraints. In every case I will have conducted sufficient research to determine that the proposed site will have network connectivity. Additionally, There will be alternate work locations identified (the nearest town, for example). When possible I will have personally scouted the area ahead of our proposed stay to determine ideal work conditions with respect to access to a reliable network.

Therefore we can expect:

- Reduced network access redundancies
 - Remedy a bad connection in 1 day
- Availability during core business hours
- Bandwidth limitations (vox and data; limited streaming video, etc)

2.3 Back-country

The *back-country* is the holy grail. If I could work here then I could stay longer. However, this is advanced radio technology that is out of my reach at the moment. I will conduct experiments during our stay but will not expect to find usable bandwidth or even a connection during our stay. Of course, that's awesome, too. Obviously, I will not expect to be working in this environment.

Therefore we can expect:

- No network access redundancy
 - No remedy for duration
- Availability when opportunity presents itself
- Bandwidth limitations (vox and email maybe)

3 Remote Schedule

Below is a proposed work schedule and the expected environments that I will be working in. The date ranges may move slightly once our reservations have been confirmed. Coordination with my project lead or supervisor as to exact days off to break/make camp will be made as soon in advance as possible (usually around two weeks prior).

3.1 Basic Working Parameters

- 5-day work week
 - **Full-time** - Average 40 hours per week (~8 hrs/day)
 - **Part-time** - Average 25 hours per week (~5 hrs/day)
- No longer than 10 contiguous business days off

3.2 ABC - Advanced Base Camp

These days and location are critical to the success of the expedition. We will have a furnished two bedroom apartment in Fort Collins, Colorado. This is *home* for [REDACTED] and me. We know the town well, I have access to the university (my Alma mater) and all my friends are here or within an hour's drive. Final tweaks to gear, the truck, and reconnoiters into the mountains will provide solid empirical data that I can use to tweak my work setup.

Dates	July 25 - August 24
Environment	Traditional
Availability	Full-time

3.3 Lions, Dinosaurs and Bears

Dates	August 28 - September 29
Environment	Front-country
Availability	Part-time

3.4 Project Dark Skies (*Vacation/Unpaid*)

Dates	October 2 - 13
Environment	Back-country
Availability	None

3.5 A Mighty Fortress

Dates	October 16 - October 20
Environment	Front-country
Availability	Part-time

3.6 Thank God I'm A Country Boy!

This section will conclude our expedition. We will have a furnished home in Durango, Colorado to *wind down* and enjoy some fall mountain living. I'll tell General Schwarzkopf you said 'hi' (Telluride, CO).

Dates	October 23 - November 16
Environment	Traditional
Availability	Part-time

3.7 Return to the Shire (*Unpaid*)

We will turn towards home stopping to enjoy Thanksgiving with my brother and his family in St. Louis, MO. Afterwards, I will take the remaining time off to get unpacked and settled back into home for the holidays.

Dates	November 17 - December 1
Environment	Traditional
Availability	None

4 Conclusion

Thank you! I look forward to discussing this more.