

Men's Journal

March 2009 | Volume 18 | Number 3

Barack Obama, Jock in Chief

His Moves, His Trash Talk & His Weekly Power Basketball Game

YOU CAN DO IT!
12 Weeks to Your First Triathlon

Last Chance to Visit Old Cuba

Face-to-Face with the Satan of Baseball

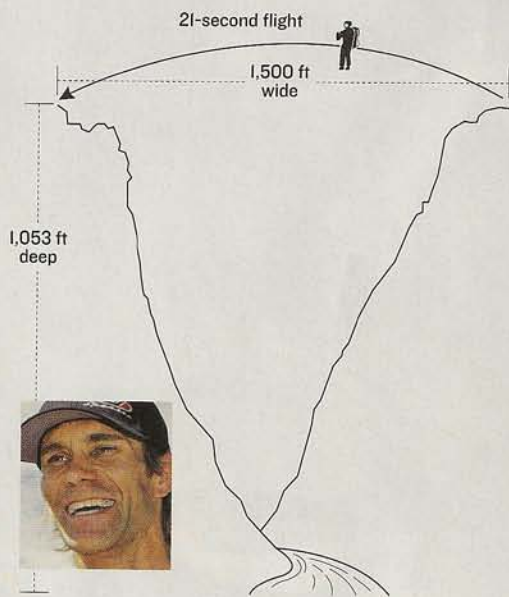
GEAR SPECIAL

Upgrade Your Home Custom Knives, Cool Chairs & the Perfect Workbench

The Car Genius Trying to Save General Motors

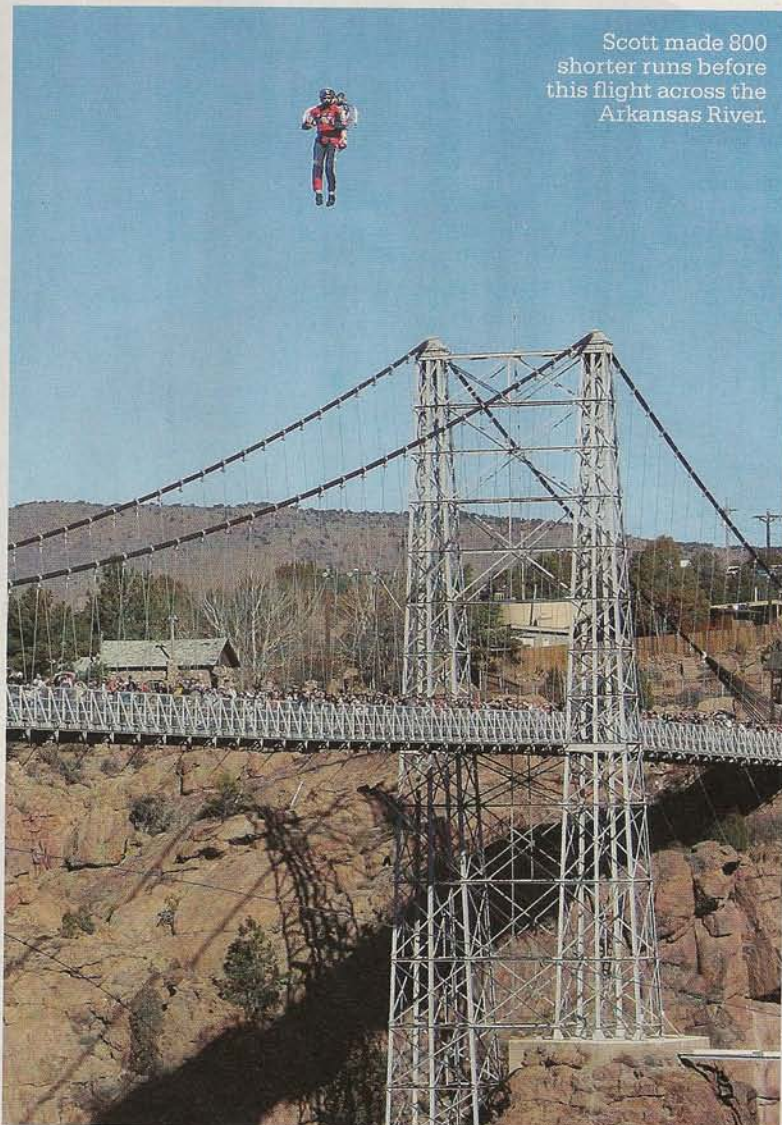


RECORD BOOK



The Real George Jetson

On November 24, **Eric Scott** used a hydrogen peroxide-powered jet pack to travel a record 1,500 feet across 1,053-foot-deep Royal Gorge near Cañon City, Colorado. Without a backup parachute, Scott, who has been testing the 135-pound, 800-hp pack for the past five years, took 21 seconds to make the crossing – and had fuel for only 33 seconds of flight. “There wasn’t much room for error,” admits the 46-year-old. “Once I was halfway across I knew I’d make it, even though I got blown off course a bit. It’s like driving on ice – you don’t want to overcorrect.” –EUGENE BUCHANAN



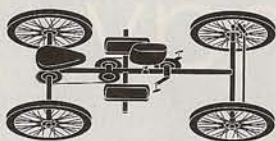
Scott made 800 shorter runs before this flight across the Arkansas River.

Up Kilimanjaro by Hand

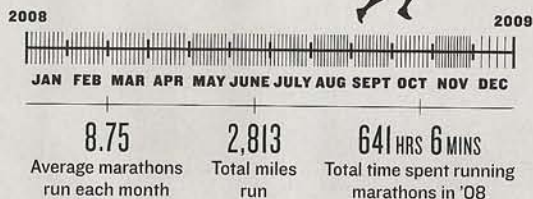
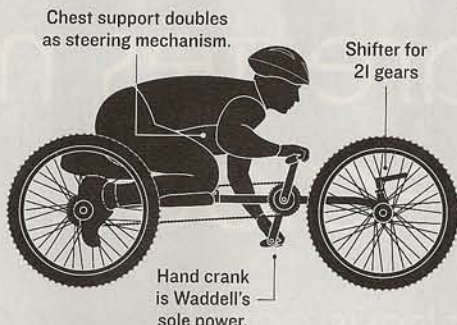


To reach Uhuru, the 19,341-foot peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, you hike up swaths of loose, mostly volcanic rock, which can slide underfoot on grades as steep as 45 degrees. In March, **Chris Waddell**, 40, plans to summit it on a specially built off-road handcycle, becoming the first paraplegic to make the

entire ascent under his own power. As alpinists do, the former Paralympian, who shattered two vertebrae in a skiing accident 20 years ago, will ascend steep portions by fixed ropes – in this case, 300-foot lengths that spool through a winch on his custom-designed rig. It will be an estimated nine-day odyssey (able-bodied climbers do it in six). “I have a lot of fears,” says Waddell. “But it’s the unknown that’s so appealing.” –DARREN REIDY



WEIGHT: 48 lbs
WHEEL BASE: 40 in
TRANSMISSION: 21 gears
LENGTH: 64 in
WIDTH: 36 in
GROUND CLEARANCE: 12 in



One Year, 105 Marathons



“My body doesn’t complain,” says **Larry Macon** about running marathons, something the 63-year-old San Antonio attorney did 105 times last year. The former cyclist started running 14 years ago after two of his friends were killed by cars while biking. At the time, Macon never expected to set a record. “I was running a couple a year. Then I slipped up and did three or four. Next thing you know I ran 58,” says Macon, who completed 93 in 2007, only six shy of the then world record. “It’s rocket science getting all the flights and cars lined up. That’s the hardest part.” –DACUS THOMPSON

PHOTOGRAPHS: SCOTT: COURTESY CHRIS BAZULI; PACK: INTERNATIONAL; BRIDGE: COURTESY DEBBIE BELLUET; PACK: INTERNATIONAL; RUNNER: DYNAMIC GRAPHICS; JUPITER IMAGES: MOON; ERIC BAY/AP; WADDELL: MIKE STONER; ILLUSTRATIONS: COLIN HAYES