

Q&A

Q: What do we think: Is he in the park, or out of it?

My hope from fairly early in this search has been that he did make it out of the park. The odds are far better for his survival if he did.

That said, we have no evidence that he made it out, and our search for video at potential exit points has turned up nothing so far. All signs currently still point to him having gone for a run in the park and not having left it.

Q: Mountain Lions?

Mountain lion attacks are rare. That said for nearly the first 2 weeks of this search lions were spotted daily, even in exposed areas during the hottest part of the day. They are clearly very active in the area, and getting stared down by one while camped out for our night search is not an experience I'll forget.

The "wildlife" question in general though I don't think is a good explanation for how things went wrong for Philip. It's far more likely that he either succumbed to the heat or fell prior to any wildlife involvement. I say wildlife because it's not just mountain lions that might opportunistically feed on someone that's incapacitated in the park: coyotes, bob cats, vultures, and wild hogs are in these hills.

It's certainly a possibility that he's been dismantled and cached (buried) by various forms of wildlife, and most of our searching at this point is looking for smaller parts and odors that might reveal this.

Q: What did Philip and I discuss the night before he went missing?

I'll start with the text thread and fill in the in-person conversations after. I think our texts leading up to his disappearance show a lot about who he was as a family-first man, and the level to which he took his responsibilities to his family very seriously.

I haven't wanted to share them, or our in-person conversation, publicly before because in it we talk about many other places to run: places he ultimately chose not to run, and it made no sense to accidentally direct search efforts and resources to areas he wouldn't be.

To: Philip Kreycik

[Details](#)

6/20/21, 11:01 AM

Getting so much good work in!

6/20/21, 12:07 PM

Haha mainly work work and demolition!

We're ripping everything out of tenant unit... Major renovation!

6/20/21, 1:23 PM

I meant to running but yeah that's got to be even more!?! 🤖

Yeah. Jen's parents are visiting this weekend which gave me an excuse to run both days and not leave Jen out numbered by the toddlers!

6/28/21, 3:25 PM

Thinking of camping this weekend, potentially Tahoe area. You and Jen interested?

Probably a dispersed site though there are some first-come-first-serve campgrounds up there which I could go claim earlier in the week if needed.

6/29/21, 5:23 PM

Nice! We would have trouble committing to and planning for an overnight with Kai and Kia this weekend given all our chaos with the home situation, but maybe we could do some sort of day hike depending on where you end up

I'm also a bit wary of 4th of July traffic...

We should meet to run sometime soon!

6:30 today?

Running with another fellow from skyline gate

Might push to 6:45

That's a late run for trails! Nice long daylight hours... Can't tonight but have fun

To: Philip Kreycik

Details

7/8/21, 1:09 PM

I've got a free pass Friday night and Saturday morning if you're up for a run. I could go further than normal because Jen is with the kids and her parents in Stockton

Could be fun to try running that's not a place I normally would have gone

7/8/21, 3:17 PM

Ooooh

Very interested

Anywhere in particular you have in mind?

7/8/21, 4:28 PM

How's mt Um on sat?

Never been!

Is it really hot there in the summer?

Could be fun

yes

High Saturday currently says 85 but I could believe it gets hotter

Perhaps starting early?

Let me look on a map and think about it...

It'll take about 2 hours to drive

(Because I need to go to Walnut Creek to pick up Tyler on the way)

I'm willing to leave by 7:30am at the earliest, any earlier and I'm pretty zapped from the early wake up.

Ahh... That could work

And maybe even a bit later

I have to go to Stockton in the afternoon and could maybe do it "on the way"

May need to do some housework before running though

Is there anything of interest on Mt Hamilton or mission peak or Sunol?

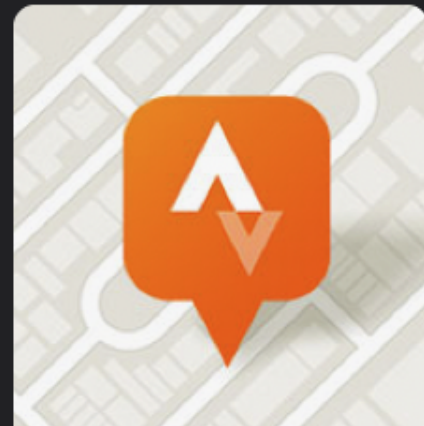
I've never run those places either

Did you have a distance in mind?

To: Philip Krevcik
7/8/21, 11:31:13 PM

Details

I think this route:



16.3 mi Trail Running Route on Strava

strava.com

I'll confirm with Matt (also coming, his idea)

He wants to push the uphill portion, so expect to work for the first half.

At least prior to all the fires that trail was listed as fairly shady, I think that area burned last year though.

Interesting

I'm very interested in sunol/hamilton/mission peak runs

Not sure if I know Matt but excited that there's a larger group

Should be 5 of us if you can make it

(And assuming Tyler doesn't back out)

Matt is bringing a friend from out of town

This is Matt:



Strava Runner Profile | Matthew S.

strava.com

7/8/21, 11:31 PM

Bummer! Sounds like I should be in Stockton by 12 or 1230, which would require leaving the run by 1030

If we did somewhere like ohlone or del Valle or Sunol I'd have more time for running

To: Philip Kreycik

Details

I could be down for an evening run tomorrow less far afield... Since I wouldn't want to derail any plans

If you did Stockton first what time would you be able to get to mt um by?

7/9/21, 7:16 AM

Wouldn't work because once I go to Stockton I'm back on kid duty... (I'm picking them up and bringing them home)

7/9/21, 9:31 AM

Gotchya

Yeah something this evening is fine

Need to keep intensity and duration low though

This evening or during the day if you aren't working

Alt. Happy to just hike and chat.

7/9/21, 12:14 PM

I'd be up for low intensity. But I do need to check about my schedule this evening

Ok

Currently thinking 5pm-ish bringing some beers and run/hiking up to the peak above cull canyon. Short route up is 4mi round trip starting from the staging area by the Christmas tree farm in chabot, long route up is 9mi round trip starting from cull canyon parking lot but good fun!

(If you don't drink I'll happily bring another cold beverage of your choice)

Does sound fun but probably a bit much for me given I'm pretty slammed until 5... Starting to think more local

I'll give you a ride and we can push it back a bit

But if that still doesn't work then yeah lets shift to something more local

7/9/21, 1:55 PM

Yeah let's go local unless you had others interested

If you want to keep intensity down would you opt for flatter?

Slower more. Hip handles vert way better than flats.

To: Philip Kreycik

Details

Yeah Volmer may be the way to go

I do have another person coming.

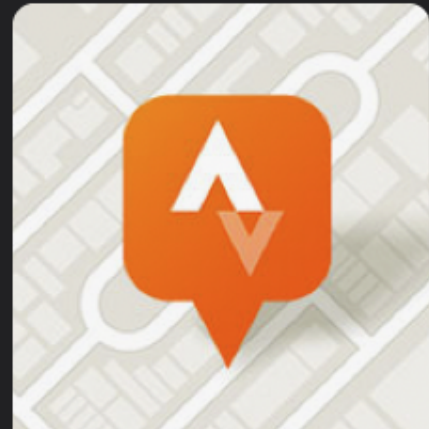
Also giving them a ride though so the where shouldn't matter too much.

What time works? 545?

Meet at the track?

Let's do moon gate, I'll give a ride if you need.

Thinking roughly this though may shift it to French -> golden spike -> Dunn return



5.1 mi Trail Running Route on Strava
strava.com

Its actually Waterloo Staging Area just before Moon Gate. I can pick you up 5:45ish.

Got a beer preference?

7/9/21, 4:51 PM

Perfect!

I like most IPAs and dark beers like porters and stouts

I'll take you up on the ride... More time to catch up!



Currently about 10 minutes behind. Putting away some groceries from the store and then I'm heading out to get

You

Ok!

We went out that night to have fun, not for a serious run. The third runner (David Lam) hadn't met Philip before and while he joined us he ended up being able to drive himself.

We ran the first part of our loop, Waterloo Staging to French Trail to Redwood Peak Trail to Redwood Peak. We sat there for about 30min enjoying a warm breeze on a pretty much perfect evening and drinking the beers I'd packed in my running vest (with ice, they were still perfectly cold :D). That's where these four photos come from. I brought three different beers, Philip chose first and drank Fort Point's "Villager". The fittingness of that selection for the weeks that have followed has stuck with me.







While on this run we discussed *a lot* of things, a few of which I won't share because they are conversations about life decisions (relocating sort of things) he and his wife were planning that clearly will have changed now. But two conversations we had do matter:

First, we talked a lot about how his work was going and how life with Kia was going (his daughter is only 8 months old). Philip was excited. Happy. Content.

He felt work was going great and was proud that a big project he'd been hired to work on was nearing completion, which seemed to give him a sense of satisfaction as he approached taking his next 4 weeks of parental leave in August. We discussed the possibility of he, Jen and the kids joining my wife and I in Mammoth Lakes for the month where I'm considering (and now maybe not considering since I want to continue searching) spending a period of time for altitude training before taking a shot at the JMT FKT.

He was adjusting well to having two children, was impressed by how much Jen could juggle but also highly aware that anything he could do to lift a burden from her was something he wanted to do. There's a few personal stories about Philip, trail running, and his wife and kids I'll try to fit in later but those were older conversations. Suffice it to say Philip was his usual loving, humble, and kind self with a very selfless dedication to his family.

Finally, we talked a lot about running plans for Saturday. Our initial thinking of Mt. Um had fallen through for logistical reasons (mostly because he needed to pick up his wife and kids from her parents' new place in Stockton early afternoon and Mt. Um was too far for that). We talked more about Sunol, Ohlone and Del Valle as potential running spots.

*Side note: Sunol park is *not* adjacent to Pleasanton Ridge and other than sharing the name is *not* where the town of Sunol and Sunol Ridge (which is in our search zone) are located. This is one of the big details I didn't want folks to get too confused by. I've still received lots of texts from folks mistakenly thinking we should be searching Sunol park even without these details.*

Our conversation was mainly around what would be a short route (short meaning < 12 miles) that he could complete on the way to Stockton. I felt that most the better runs in those park require > 15 mile routes, unless starting from Little Yosemite which is a bit out of the way (and which he was familiar with already). We left it at he was going to sleep in, enjoy the rare ability to do so, and whenever he got up if he had time along the way to Stockton he'd stop for a run.

An interesting thing (unrelated to the search but was a moment of joy in our run) was that despite both Philip and David enjoying beer and running neither had ever gone on a run before in which they paused midway to drink one. If you haven't taken the time to go for a run with the intent to just stop and sit and enjoy nature, especially with a beer, I highly recommend it. Philip now would too.

Q: Heatstroke?

Yes, I believe this is the most likely culprit here. In addition to having been around numerous ultra-runners while they were suffering heat related illnesses and having suffered it in mild quantities myself, I've interviewed a few folks who suffered worse bouts of it this year to see if their decision making while suffering from it would tell us anything that might help.

There's a few key facts here:

- 1.) Philip was NOT heat adapted. He lived on the Oakland/Berkeley border and most of his training was on the Bay side of the ridge. This means he rarely ran in temps above 80, and morning and evening runs (where he typically had time) would have been in the 50s or 60s. Unlike many athletes he ran with (including myself) he wasn't intentionally heat training. Philip does not race, he just enjoys running and is very good at it, so there wasn't the same motivation for that which others do have.
- 2.) Regardless of whether the temps on the ridge were 95 or 115 he was running into heat he was not trained for. There's conflicting evidence on just how hot it may have been while he was running up there, but even the lower bound was hot enough to turn problematic, and runners can experience heat illness very quickly and in relatively "low" temps when not trained (and even sometimes when trained).
- 3.) Heat illnesses express themselves in a lot of ways that both explain why we can't find him and also why even-if he made it out of the park he'd still have been in trouble.
 - a.) For starters, you can lose your ability to make rational decisions. Irrational decision making is probably the most common heat symptom I've observed. Things like running the same 50' section of trail back-and-forth during a race, or choosing to retrace steps for miles instead of continuing a short distance forward to safety. Someone with heat illness might choose to wander in sunlight when the rational decision would be to seek shade, and they usually do not recognize that their decision making is compromised.
 - b.) Even if he maintained rational decision making, the rational decision may have been to seek shade. There is no shade in this park that isn't underneath a tree coming out of a steep slippery ravine, and making such a decision in a compromised state could lead to additional complications like a fall or getting stuck.
 - c.) A great story I heard this week comes from a runner I know who suffered heat exhaustion earlier this year (and who thankfully had his phone, had water, and was in familiar territory). He was only 15min past his last stop for aid and supplies when he realized he was cooked. So he sought shade thinking he'd cool down for a bit. He sat there for almost 4 hours, watching hikers go by who didn't ask him if he needed help, nor asking them for help. He eventually texted his wife to pick him up only a mile away (downhill), and it took him nearly 2 hours to make that descent because of his need to pause for rest and bring his heart rate back down.
 - i.) In the early portion of this search, there's a very reasonable chance Philip was still slowly wandering and already off the main trails.

Someone in that state was extra missable in the first 48 hours and many of the places I've been re-checking make those assumptions (early searches may have been too early / he may have been still wandering).

A final point on heat illness, how long would it last? If he died somewhere from it, then obviously permanently. But if it was simply incapacitating / led to memory loss or high levels of delirium then that's a subject of considerable medical debate from what I can tell. There are reports of folks being in that state for weeks. This said, I feel if he made it out of the park we'd have found something by now, and that if he were still wandering in the park he'd have wandered out (it's hard to not get forced out of the park by the nature of the terrain, it very naturally pushes folks out of the ravines in a few locations).

Q: Uncooperative landowners?

There have been two, one in the Tehan Canyon area and one who owns the property above Hedd Canyon. These individuals are entitled to their private property rights and grouchy personalities, that said I will happily speak to both how much of their property actually did get searched *and* the probability that Philip would be on either of those properties. Before going into details I'd caution anyone thinking of "filling in the search gap" that these individuals are the folks that will escort you out at rifle point. Please do not go looking for trouble, if you happen to get their permission that's incredible. If you can't please do not go there.

I'll start with the property in Tehan Canyon:

- Reasons it's improbable: there's only one entry (off of Tehan Canyon Road) that is not a steep uphill / cliff. Most of these uphills have dense barbed wire along them as well. In terms of path of least resistance, Philip would have had tons of more enticing options (shady, downhill, easier terrain, visual markers to head towards).
- Much of this property is not tree covered, and SAR drones did cover it.
- We can see most of the areas of interest just by walking the fenceline, and a few folks did crawl in and get escorted out and their search got most of what would be likely were he to be in there.
- Official SAR tracks show they were allowed to search the buildings and likely areas on that property (I have access to their data beyond the screenshots shown in media

broadcasts but not in a shareable form, basically almost everything map related digitized from their search).

Then there's the property above Hedd Canyon.

- Official SAR tracks cover one of the only two ravines that would funnel someone there. Our tracks also cover a third ravine that *could* funnel someone there but which could also funnel someone away.
- The ravines that do lead into this property would require Philip to have made a series of especially bad decisions. Not impossible for someone in his potential state, but of the various probabilities I'd go with *extremely not likely*.
 - To get into these ravines he'd have to make a series of uphill wrong turns away from landmarks after leaving his route.
 - He'd also likely have had to have doubled back over his loop after missing both his turn and the 3 next best turn options.
 - This is because in part his footprints that were found were heading up on Mariposa Trail, indicating he'd cut the loop short at exactly the point he needed to in order to stick to the time budget he had.
- Police searched the buildings on the property.

Q: What has this changed in terms of runner safety for me?

I'm already more safety conscious than most male trail runners (anxious wife, a couple of lung collapses, and a fall that leaves you crawling off the mountain will do that to you). I emphasize male here because I do feel there is a large amount of male privilege in regards to safety for runners. Men typically don't think they need to carry a phone and tell folks where they are going etc. Before this a few of the safety things I followed were:

- Always bringing my phone (and making sure it was charged beforehand)
- Always telling my wife where I was going, who with, making sure she had their contact info, and roughly (though I've been known to blow the budget) when I'd be back.
- A knife if in more remote areas (Sierras, some higher activity mountain lion areas)
- Brightly colored clothing if in more remote areas
- At least half a liter (one hour's supply) more water than I thought I'd need, at times an extra 1-1.5L.

- Being aware in advance of where my potential water sources were and anywhere I might lose cell coverage.
- My wife (and whole family for that matter) is able to see my phone's location at all times.

Even still, when I reflect on what happened here I'm going to change a few things. For one, I've been intending to get a Garmin InReach for Sierra adventures for some time, and I'm realizing now I probably should get it and keep it with me at all times given the number of ravines I go into that have no cell signal. For two, I'm going to be a bit more careful running with my dog in the evening in the East Bay trail system, turns out there's a lot more mountain lion activity here than the mountain lion tracking project would have suggested to me. And finally, it's reinforced to me that even for a 45min run my policy of bringing a water bottle with me anyway is a policy that needs to stay.

Q: Was he familiar with this park?

We don't know. I suspect he was because I've had previous conversations with him about details of staging areas, what trails can be accessed from them most easily, and about how much we wanted Sunol Ridge to open to the public (as the highest ridge in the East Bay, it'll offer some iconic views once it does). We'd even discussed various entry points for exploring the landbank sooner, enough that I think he'd at least made the ascent to the tower once or twice (I don't recommend that ascent prior to it opening to the public btw, there's some very annoying park neighbors who look at the landbank as "their" private park).

At a minimum I can say Philip was great with maps, typically studied them well before going somewhere new, and usually could point out details to me of alternate routes while on a run without one with uncanny precision.

Q: If he wasn't heat adapted, why'd he go for this run?

Not being heat adapted doesn't mean someone doesn't think they can handle it. I suspect Philip just bit off more than he could chew. I also worry a bit about the conversation I'd had with him and whether that made him under-prepare: the forecast for Mt. Um would typically be hotter than for Pleasanton in my experience, so having told him the temps we were

expecting at 9-noon-ish there (had we gone there) was 85F may have meant he didn't check too hard.

But mostly I think he went here because he hadn't been here often (even if he had been here before) and it was a very short detour for him on his way to Stockton. His timeline that day suggests to me he drew this loop somewhat last minute as a rough sketch and dashed out the door after sleeping in (having changed from non-running clothes to at-least running shoes and running shorts in his car in the staging area is part of what makes me think this).

Q: Is there evidence he actually drove himself there / etc.

Yes. In addition to UPS Store cameras (which is how we know he changed clothes in his car afterwards), his car's journey was tracked via various FastTrak and traffic cameras from leaving that store (where he dropped off a return item) until getting to the trailhead. He'd also called his wife that morning before setting out with his rough plan, and texted her from the

trailhead to give her his ETA.

cricket LTE

11:01 PM

18% 

New Message

Cancel

To: Philip

Has super sharp spike

Limes I think

All citrus has spikes

Sat, Jul 10, 9:18 AM

Flying dragon bitter
orange 🍊

When are you leaving?

Sat, Jul 10, 10:46 AM

Eta 1235ish

Just after that "When are you leaving?" text is when the phone call took place.

Q: On speculation

In terms of why I didn't want to lay out all of these details sooner, and as I mentioned above, people tend to over-focus on non-key things, and when it does it can significantly distract from what's needed in a search like this. For instance, Mt. Hamilton is hours from Pleasanton Ridge driving, yet because he mentioned it as a possibility:



These are exactly the sorts of things we don't need.

The night Philip went missing another missing person turned up dead in the water at Del Valle. Imagine the extra headlines if the detail of "he mentioned he might go running in Del Valle" was said already? The way I've generally operated here is to keep things focused. Details that could in any way be helpful get handed out, but details that could only distract were held back until such time (as now) for us all to ponder where he might be.

Q: Was he planning on running clockwise or counter-clockwise and how sure are we of the route?

The route he drew was drawn in the counter-clockwise direction. I'd say we are relatively confident that the route is *roughly* what he intended to do. I say roughly because there's a couple of things in play:

1. He drew it before knowing his time budget, but he also used a common trick that I use when plotting a route which is to draw it in a way that there are shorter ways back if needed / less time is available / the run is taking longer than expected. He likely didn't have time for the full loop, but he *did* have time for the shorter loop via Mariposa

Trail and that is where the footprints were located. Note it was dark when these were photographed but they are "live" photos (which I don't think google docs preserves), we were moving the light source around and in the live version the prints are even more clear because of the enhancement of the shadowing.







2. Philip would **always** opt for a hill climb vs a flat route, the steeper the better. Additionally, he'd pretty much never opt to run on roads, especially if it was due to a time constraint. He'd just not run at all in that case. The route he drew makes sense because it's exactly what he'd normally do with the time he had from the location he was starting, with a couple of possible exceptions:
 - a. He probably would have taken the trail connector from the parking lot to the trailhead vs the road. He would have seen this connector on Strava's mapping and heatmap but Strava doesn't "autodraw" routes via that connector, so he'd probably have noted it mentally but not manually adjusted the route to account for it.
 - b. We have footage from that time period that seems to rule out him being on the road so very likely the connector is how he started his run.
 - c. He'd probably have noted alternate routes up/down, a few of which would have been pretty enticing to someone like him (and well within his abilities). Even if nothing went wrong, there's a couple of "community trails" he might have had in mind to use on the way down.

Q: Did he usually run without his phone?

I've seen him run with it and without it. Typically he prefers to not carry anything. If he felt he did need some water or food he was the type of person to pocket a couple of plums and bring a small handheld or reused water bottle that might even be only half full.

The night before he ran without his phone.

He seems to mostly run with his phone when he has a work call or family call he knows he will need to make while on the run, or when he was going somewhere he knew he'd want to take pictures.

Q: Did his job put him at risk?

Basically this question comes up in a lot of various forms. No, nothing Philip did for work / was working on would have made him a target for information/access/security related reasons.

Q: What happened with the blood / could it have been the result of Philip defending himself?

It was tested twice and both times came back as animal blood. I doubt it would have been the result of self-defence as there was enough blood that whatever animal that was is very likely no-longer. I suspect it was a small fawn or some such that had been carried off before the area was found, there's a lot of scavengers out there.

Q: Have we checked all the water sources?

Yes. That's not to say we couldn't have missed something, there's a big portion of this park that even with dense coverage of where we've been I'd be unsurprised to learn later we'd walked right past something. Most of the primary search area is littered with brush, fallen trees, tall grass, and general build up of sticks and leaves. And it's on steep, loose terrain which makes checking every little nook and cranny hard, though we've been trying. I think I'm the only one that hasn't come home littered in poison oak yet (I'm immune, hoping it stays that way, we're crawling in the stuff). Generally for gear at this point I'm always carrying an ice-axe and a rope because there's a lot of places I had too much difficulty getting out of and took risks I should not have earlier in the search when I wasn't carrying those items. You can navigate about 70% of it with poles and good traction if you have the fitness, but there are still points that without the right gear you'll likely do what I did and find a rock to use as a shovel and literally carve yourself steps in the hillside to get out.

There's more water in the drainages than I would have expected, most of them have at least one area that's still wet (even if putrid). And there's a few places we've found "drinkable" natural sources as well as a couple of seemingly bottomless cisterns that are full to the brim (don't worry, we checked those too, there's enough brush in them nothing could have gotten down in beyond 1-2ft and we pulled up everything we could from a depth of about 8-10ft).

Q: Have we checked the drainages and pipes along foothill?

Yes, as did SAR, but at this point it's worth checking again if you have time and can do so safely.

Q: Three missing ultra-runners?

This one is crazy but I'll answer it anyway. The first of these three (Lucas Horan) was also an acquaintance and similar to Philip shared a love of racing up and down his local peak (also Vollmer). In Lucas' case he decided to swim to shore in an inebriated state from a houseboat, no one with him realized he didn't make it, and his body was eventually found in the water.

The search for Lucas though helped me immensely with the search for Philip. While for Lucas my involvement was just to scramble a few locations in the Oakland hills in case he had (in keeping with Lucas' character) gotten out of the water and decided to wander up for a run, watching the digital organization around a strava profile and use of a heatmap gave me the ideas for how to quickly scale tons of searchers into the park and see what they'd covered.

I have no idea who the third person being referenced is, but I did see some passing comment about all three having something to do with "paid off race wins" and I can tell you that neither Lucas nor Philip was all that much into racing. What they shared was a kindred spirit for exploration and a lung-busting uphill run.

Q: Did we bring search dogs into the steep ravines?

My understanding is that SAR took them into a couple of them at least (they didn't need to descend, they entered from the bottom and worked up without needing to get on the sides). There's definitely potential for missing something and we're considering bringing out dogs of our own now.

Q: Homeless encampments checked?

We've been alerted to where they are, but I don't know for sure that anyone has checked around them. We did check the one that exists within the search boundary.

Q: Is using Strava for mapping typical for him?

It's typical for most runners who use Strava tbh, and yes, very typical for him. He and I would trade routes fairly regularly when discussing potential places to explore.

Q: Can you connect me with historian to help identify specific landmarks on the former ranches in the park?

I don't know any, but an individual did forward me lots of potential reference material for finding abandoned wells in the search area. We would like to identify where those are and search them. The rumors I've gathered so far have them mostly further south on private lands, and we're working on seeing if we can pin down some locations.

Q: Have you checked wildlife camera traps in the park?

PPD and EBRPD did collect those cameras for review and to our knowledge have not completed that review. However, we were told that many of them weren't working and most the rest had full memory cards which means they likely won't have anything useful.

If I have some feedback for folks maintaining wildlife cameras after this it would be to collect their footage more often.

Q: How involved is the police in terms of actively searching? Or is it reactive based on tips at this point?

Reactive based on tips, of which there have been few and none of which have turned up anything.

Q: Was anyone able to track his GPS Watch?

Tracking a GPS watch isn't technologically possible. GPS devices are passive receivers, they don't transmit your location or a signal.

The idea of carrying his phone everywhere to see if it would pair with the watch sounds better in theory than it would work in practice. Since there's only one phone and since drones can't get very close to the ravine areas where the tree coverage is it would be weeks worth of trekking to cover all the ground... assuming it would even work.

His watch couldn't pair via bluetooth at all until a software update a few weeks ago, and from what Philip mentioned to me it still sounded very manual.

Q: Why wasn't there a call for camera footage (Tesla, Nest, etc) right away?

Initially we left this to PPD, and they did tell us what cameras they were tracking down. That includes the Nest cameras in the neighborhood. However we felt the scope of that had ended up too limited and decided to track down more. I'll discuss camera footage in general in a different answer.

Q: Do we believe there could be foul play involved?

We have no evidence to suggest it, especially for motivations such as theft (for instance his car was left un-broken into with his wallet and phone inside).

Q: What about the Santa Rita Rd sighting?

When we decide to say that we found this sighting credible I agonized over the wording. This is one of those cases where it's very easy to word something in a way that misleads, and I think we did a decent job of that though some folks still read more into it than they should have.

By credible, we specifically mean that after speaking with the woman who made this report and some folks who know her we do believe that she saw what she says she saw roughly when she says she saw it.

But there's every chance that the person she saw was not Philip. It was hot, shirtless man running with dry-mouth and looking a little extra fatigued because it was hot... I'm almost surprised we didn't get a dozen such reports.

However, a large swath of the park slopes into the Laurel Creek Drive eventually, including many of what we consider to be the most-likely accidental or intentional alternate ways down Philip may have found his way into. Laurel Creek Drive puts you right on Stoneridge which take you right to that location. With this in mind, and considering the slow speed at which someone with heat exhaustion may be moving, and also considering that this portion of the private lands/ landbank / park wasn't searched much the first 12 hours it was plausible that it could have been a sighting.

To confirm or rule this out we've focused on two things: cameras near the sighting, and cameras where he could have exited the park. This includes footage from the walmart, buses along the route, and several other businesses. So far we've found no footage of a shirtless runner, so either we haven't found the right cameras yet, or this report is less accurate than we'd hoped. I suspect it's the former much more than the latter. It's far easier to accidentally NOT be on camera than you might think.. I learned this the hard way a few years back, but that's a private story another time.

Q: What are we seeking from camera footage?

We're looking for camera footage from homes and businesses in the direct vicinity of the park, especially close to potential exit points. If you have footage from ~10:45am on Saturday 7/10 until ~8pm that night, that footage is especially of interest. We'd still be interested in footage from after that point if something is of note to you; however, due to the volume of folks entering the park and exiting the park from every location imaginable during the search said footage would be much harder to review and spot something after about that point. Through noon Sunday 7/11 might still be relatively noise free. If you have said footage, please contact us at finding.philip.kreycik@gmail.com

Q: What about the runner reported to have seen another runner on the ridge that day?

We would still love to find this person. The parks employee that interacted with this runner has been interviewed by PPD, but there simply isn't enough detail to locate the runner which is what we need. Specifically that runner could answer the following questions:

- Time and location of sighting
- Direction he was traveling
- Was he shirtless?
- Was he carrying anything?

This would allow us to refine search areas in the park (or potential exits from the park) and help us focus in more quickly on where he might be.

Q: What about the scent dogs?

Unfortunately they aren't as amazing as some folks in the comments would have you believe. It's true they tracked some scent from his car to the trailhead, though we also don't think that's the approach he took to said trailhead (though he would have still passed that trailhead).

It was hot, very hot, and by the time the dogs were there those areas had been baking in the sun for hours.

When you have a family, share your car with your wife, and do laundry together pretty much all scent articles are contaminated in some way. The family tried hard to give uncontaminated items to SAR for the search, but ultimately it seemed the dogs would instead pick up on the scent of others in the area.

If Philip is in the park and has now passed away, an area search dog specialized in decomposing bodies may be our best bet now that we are within the time window for that, and we're looking into conducting such a search.

Q: Any other shoe prints?

Oooh boy. I've got so much I want to say about this search and shoe prints I don't know where to start.

First off, I've been seriously hitting myself over not realizing I had photos of the prints until ~ day 4? Day 5? I went out with another mutual running friend of Philip's that evening he went missing and decided to cover his loop in reverse (clockwise) descending turtle pond trail and then ascending Mariposa trail in case he had short-cutted like we thought he probably would have.

From near the start we were scouring the ground for areas we might find prints. There weren't many places they could even be. For the most part the ground was baked hard from the heat and hadn't been trodd on much (until this search the northern end of this park saw probably the least park activity).

That said, once we got onto the ridge we started seeing a lot more places where prints could have been, but mostly they'd been run through by e-bikes, motor-bikes, and pickup trucks pretty extensively at that point by the early responders who'd jetted through the park trying to locate him. I'm not saying that was the wrong response (the odds were he was collapsed on or near a trail somewhere and time was crucial), but I feel like the SAR handbook there (or probably more accurately the PPD and EBRPD handbooks) should be updated to send in less intrusive vehicles with drivers who are aware of what areas might hold prints and avoid them. It's a tricky balance: finding someone easy to find fast vs transitioning for a search that may take longer, and moving fast can sadly destroy evidence that might have helped for a long search scenario.

Ultimately I don't think we lost enough that we'd have found him (given how hard baked these areas were at the time, they've loosened up since there's been so much traffic on them), or at least I hope we didn't lose something. BUT, while absence of evidence isn't evidence of absence, I can tell you that we looked pretty hard between the gate at the top of the climb where he joined North Ridge all the way to Turtle Pond Trail and while there were a good number of potential footprint traps we didn't find any. There were **very** few prints anywhere out there that night.

There's a lot of reasons this could be including the aforementioned vehicle and bike traffic, but it also makes me suspect he went down into the ravines from the top of Mariposa. There's an old fireroad right there that gives easy access. Or we missed some prints, or they were already run over. We don't know.

As for why it took so long for Scott and I to realize we had found prints matching his: we didn't know his tread at the time, and we both had felt it was potentially a boot print from a searcher who had been in his truck and periodically stepping out of it to call for Philip (we didn't know his prints but he had been wearing boots and to our untrained eye in the dark we guessed very wrong. Lesson there for sure). So when we got overwhelmed with coordinating so many folks it slipped our minds to go back and check once his shoes were confirmed. After more folks stepped up and I had a short breather I checked and immediately realized what we had: PPD, SAR and the family was notified immediately at that point. With most everything else in this search I've worked to make sure multiple pairs of eyes see it and multiple people have access and/or multiple people are considering the angle. The lesson for me is to not let details that need follow up get dropped when the rush starts.

Q: Leads from Drone Footage? Satellite footage?

I believe at this point we've exhausted the satellite angle, but there's a little follow up still to do. Mostly there just isn't enough resolution and comparison pictures to be able to spot something is what I've told (even using ML). It's not something I've worked on myself yet (only so much time) but there are experts involved so I'd currently assume its a dead end.

As for drones, it has surfaced a few images with locations I'll be searching to ensure we don't miss something. However, to this point images it has surfaced have pointed at logs with discoloration or the (abundant) red and orange poison oak leaves.

Early in the search PPD, Alameda and SAR used drones extensively with thermal imaging; however with the ambient temperatures as high as they were and the tree cover as dense as it is in the ravines they weren't able to find anything.

Q: What about the cries for help?

To correct a rumor that's floated around: only the reporting family heard the calls that night. The confirmation I gave was of location, after meeting with the father and son who'd remained to search for hours (the rest of the family had eventually returned home). Reports that I also heard the calls for help are incorrect.

At least four family members heard it and we spent quite a while talking with them and searching with them that night. The dedication that family put in to alerting authorities, getting their neighbors out to help them search into the night, and alerting us when the authorities didn't mobilize overnight was greatly appreciated.

They heard "help", and I do believe they truly did hear that sound. My personal take is they heard someone else in the distance yelling "Philip" of which there were a LOT of folks doing that night and which sounds a ton like "help" in that canyon. I recognized this possibility fairly early in the night, but when time is critical and especially with a tip you believe is from someone with honest intentions you search first and reflect later.

It's also possible it was wildlife, there was a lot of wildlife in that area that night, including a mountain lion that stalked me before entering the very canyon we were searching and potentially several others (but only eyes were seen so imo could have been coyotes based on

the size). Side note: I've run in mountain lion territory for quite a while and never seen anything like the level of activity and aggressiveness from them we got this last week, both at night and during the day, probably because of the sheer number of folks off trail in remote areas of the park, private lands, and landbank pushing them around.

The reason we stopped is we literally covered every square foot of that canyon in the dark, waited for light, and covered every square foot of it again by walking in a line through it and keeping each other in sight. We also knew SAR would cover the ground again once it was light, since we'd alerted them the moment we were notified, and wanted to be sure that once we'd done a full sweep we were out of their way for double-duty.

If it was a cry for help, it would have had to have carried from a fairly long ways away and bounced into that canyon, and there wasn't enough to suggest that was what happened, especially due to the direction of the reported sound. We yelled from various locations to listen to how the sounds would bounce and if not from that canyon the sound would have needed to have bounced multiple times. We had nowhere to go after that so SAR covered the few potential sources of a bouncing voice with thermal imaging and a ground crew just in case.

That search was probably the moment I fully appreciated how many folks had come together for Philip. That in the middle of the night we got 30 people into a canyon, coordinating cars since there wasn't nearby parking, got multiple command centers setup to be able to relay information due to the difficulty of the location.. I'm so thankful for it all. When I got that message I was the very last person official SAR or volunteer left, I didn't know what to do. I texted the lead for SAR and he let me know the first thing I needed to do was go confirm the location, but I also wanted the wheels in motion to get folks there if needed. I barely got out the words to some folks to send help and roughly where I was going and dashed over to meet the family as fast as I could. Once I had the coordinate I had to hike up to get reception to send messages out, and already by then I had a team lining up to come in. I can't say thanks enough to everyone who made that happen that night, I still don't know who most of you are but turning around and finding a team at my back ready to go was incredible. Thank you.

Q: What's my best guess for what happened?

He got dizzy from the heat, wandered into a ravine for either shade or shortcut, fell, got stuck, and either he's still there or wildlife has encountered him since. In either case we're looking for something hard to find: harder if it's the latter. If he's in there, the bottoms of ravines after

rains will probably be where remains will eventually turn up. If we don't find him soon you'll find me out there in them often in the coming months/years. I'm always happy for company!

Q: What lead is primarily being followed now?

We're mostly checking off the boxes: making sure there aren't gaps in the primary search area we missed since that's still most likely, checking for footage anywhere he could have wandered out of the park. Nothing specific at the moment; however, we would still like to track down the runner who may have seen Philip on the ridge that day.

Strava sent emails to most athletes who were in the vicinity, nothing to our knowledge has come of that yet. We've used various means to reconstruct fly-bys and not found anyone. We're looking at searching for folks that may have seen or passed him via segment creation at the moment (and could probably use a few strava-savy volunteers for that).

Mostly though when it comes to the park I feel we've exhausted the obvious, and what's left is little nooks and downed trees we maybe didn't get eyes around as well as we should have in the first pass or two. So I've been spending my evenings wandering those areas systematically, but also connecting the dots on the exact locations of all the "unofficial" trails: been trying as hard as I can to both think like a runner, think like a runner in distress, and think like a runner in distress making irrational decisions. The trouble is, if it's the third, we've potentially got no real boundaries for the search anymore.

Q: What may be out there about Philip's disappearance that is complete misinformation that you would like to address?

I think for the most part we've done a good job addressing it when it popped up. There have been more media reports/police interviews recently with incorrect statements (like Philip having run on the ridge on Friday as well for instance), so maybe a general word of caution. This AMA exists in part to put out "what we know" as well as we can so that the effect of incorrect statements is more minimal.

Questions I won't be answering

- Did the police investigate X scenario in which Philip wanted to disappear. I can't speak to what all they investigated; however, even though I'm fully aware that turning over your phone to the police is never in your interest, so many folks sent me so many texts

and voicemails pertaining to the search + the photos I took + the conversations I'd had with Philip I ended up giving them mine. I wanted them to have every confidence in Philip, and also in his friends. I do think they looked at this from those angles and I did have conversations with PPD about how the lead detective had changed to ensure that they were objective (vs. close with the family) to ensure that those angles were properly accounted for.

- Internet search history etc. (I have no ability to answer these questions; however, I will say Philip led a very open and transparent life and his family has access to all his accounts, so I very much doubt there's anything there of note or that any un-expected activity has occurred since he went missing. That's just my opinion though, no evidence for you.)