

## StormGroup Chasers - Testimonials by Year

Each year, testimonials have been requested from guests on the tours, usually in their first year with us, to reflect their initial impressions of the SGC storm chasing experience. Many of those people have rebooked multiple times since, confirming their initial positive views by their continued loyalty to our tours.

Here's a list of those testimonials, organised by year. Tours were not run in 2020 & 2021 due to the international travel restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### 2023 Storm Chasing Testimonials

#### Hardev – United States

*Witness big cloud ships in the sky, fervent lightning shows, twisters - and have access to a wealth of weather science while you're at it. All this and more can be found when chasing with Peter. Not to mention invaluable daily picnics, great local restaurant picks (beyond burgers & bbq) and a daily hit of local historic landmarks of whichever town you end up in. Honestly, have chased with 2 other chase groups and hands down this was the best. Forget the "extreme" van packs out to punch cores. A healthy (minimal gas station dinners) sensible (but always thrilling) chase aspect, not to mention cultured (Buddy Holly Museum anyone?) option exists. A true diamond in the rough here.*

#### Louise - Canada

*I've been fascinated with storms since my early childhood growing up on Lake Temiskaming in the James Bay Frontier. I love photography and taking a break from "city life" so I took the opportunity in 2022 to go on a storm trip with Peter Wharton. You need to give yourself a first trip to understand how storm chasing works. Then came the second trip this year. Peter put together a road trip chasing storms through the central US that surpassed my expectations. Leave your wifi behind and the tourists in the run of the mill vacations! ... to witness the power of nature with your own eyes and in my case, take a ton of pictures. This storm trip 2023 has been one of my ultimate vacation experiences!*

### 2019 Storm Chasing Testimonials

#### Stefan - Netherlands

*In May last year I attended Tour 3 with Peter. It was a very active season with storms every day! Peter is a real storm freak and always busy with judging the weather, looking to the sky or checking his equipment. He is also a very social and warm person. If there was a possibility to leave early in the morning to travel a big distance to a target area, Peter would definitely do this. He is very dedicated. Traveling in a small group has its benefits, especially with eating in restaurants for breakfast and dinner. It's very intimate travelling in a small group like this. You get to know everybody very well.*

*Although the season was great and there were a lot of storms it was also for me personally a bit disappointing that we didn't see a tornado from a reasonable distance. <Note: we did sight 3 separate tornadoes on this tour, albeit a few miles away>. But instead we really got a complete storm adventure with lots of lightning, huge hail and the excitement of chasing almost every day. And very nice photo opportunities too! I would definitely recommend StormGroup Chasers.*



## **Katie – United States**

*I had a blast joining Storm Group Chasers for the first time in 2019! Peter was an incredibly knowledgeable and entertaining guide. I learned a ton about weather systems and had a great time watching storms come together and take off. We had a chance to experience some really neat weather along the trip, including a stunning rotating wall cloud one of our first nights, a series of unexpected land spouts, and a close brush with a night time tornado. In between chasing, the trip was a great opportunity to see parts of the U.S. I had never visited and experience all kinds of interesting history. We learned about the Oklahoma land rush, the history of U.S. and Russian space travel, and hiked an extinct volcano in southeastern New Mexico. Along the way, we also had the chance to meet lots of interesting folks, explore small towns, have some great picnics, and cover a great deal of geography. Even after seven days on the road, we had enough variation in the schedule to keep things fun. As soon as I got back, I started planning for next year's trip!*

## **Peter - Netherlands**

*I booked the tour from 10 to 16 June. After a short introduction to the meteorological basics of tornado formation, we finally started tornado hunting!! With Peter and David at the wheel, we first learned a lot about the nature and culture of the Great Plains and visited historic places like the big Texan in Amarillo. I myself could already get to know surprisingly good beers, the Texan food is beyond any doubt anyway. On the 12th of June we were able to produce our first supercell, of course with the legendary Peter soap bubbles. We experienced a sensational supercell with neat flashes and made all the fantastic pictures and movies in the sunset.*

*The next day I learned a lot about culture in America, from the super delicious breakfast in hidden local pubs to a local history museum, ghost towns, windmill parks, to delicious food in Amarillo with steak and beer as it should be!!! The next day waited with hopeful weather forecast which should be confirmed. On the Capulin Volcano we were able to check the situation first. The air became hotter, wetter and greasier on the skin. First cloud towers shot up and we followed some thunderstorm cells. In Scott City, the beast finally caught us and provided us with plenty of wind, dust, hail and brutal lightning.*

*On Saturday then the picture book day for which one goes on such trips with Peter. In the morning and noon at the Space Museum in Hutchinson, then on to the Twister Museum that every hunter must have seen. It was also a perfect omen for the rest of the day, evening, and night. In Waukomis, Oklahoma the bubbles came on again and we chased the first storms. Peter and David unerringly led us to an emerging supercell with potential. It was almost dark when the cell began to spin and became more and more threatening. At the perfect vantage point, we finally witnessed the emergence of a destructive tornado. The beast evolved and came closer and closer, lightning struck right and left and we had to search the distance and flee through Custer City where the tornado sirens howled. In the glare of lightning we saw the beast next to our van and drove faster until we were safe again. Adrenaline shot through our veins and we all clapped ourselves off. Storm chasing at its best. In the evening, the great event was again properly celebrated. The next day we saw the trail of devastation in and around Custer City. Destroyed farms, uprooted trees and the storm's track in the grass.*

*But who would thought that the last day would start slowly was "disappointed". David spoke of tornado potential on the radar and we were hunting again! Unfortunately we were out of luck. Anyway, the trip was an incredible adventure for me and the hunt cast a spell on me and it definitely will not be my last hunt with Peter and David!!!!*

## **Bucky – United States**

*2019's Tour 6 kicked off with a meet and greet for the four clients and a fascinating slide show and tutorial. One of the main messages imparted was that storm chasing isn't just about tornadoes, but also about the magnificence of supercell thunderstorms - those towering giants of breath-taking beauty.*

*Of course, storm chasing is also about the land itself. The U.S. mid-west region experiences some of the world's most extreme weather and the level landscape offers unparalleled viewing opportunities. While there's no guarantee of tornado-sighting, you will very likely see a supercell brooding on the horizon, and then boiling skyward, hovering like the mothership from "Close Encounters".*

*Thanks to Peter Wharton's skilled prognostication, we saw several of these awe-inspiring storms as the tour ranged from Texas and New Mexico, through Beaver, Kansas (twice!), and up to eastern Colorado where, on the day of the summer solstice, the incredible supercell we'd been tracking erupted with hurricane force winds and a true blizzard of hail. This we witnessed while safely ensconced in a local tavern in the tiny town of Cheyenne Wells. I'll never forget the beauty and the fury of that storm. I came home with a better understanding of storm dynamics, and a new appreciation and respect for the farmers and ranchers of the "Flyover States".*

## **Roger – United Kingdom**

*I first met Peter on board a tall ship sailing from the Falklands to Antarctica in 2013/14. During some of the quiet parts of the passage he entertained the rest of the crew with some excellent lectures about the how the atmosphere works and the formation of storms and of course storm chasing.*

*As an avid yachtsman I was impressed and intrigued by his stories of severe weather, combined with a road trip through parts of the USA that I hadn't visited previously, so I made a commitment to join one of his tours.*

*Well after 5 years I finally bit the bullet and joined Tour 3 in 2019 for 10 days of chasing. I met up with Peter and the rest of the crew in the evening after they had been off for a bonus day of chasing, I'd been delayed by severe storms grounding flights between Houston and OK City. This seemed to set the pattern for the next 10 days, we had one of the most active periods for severe weather that Peter has ever seen. The group of 'strangers' gelled very quickly, gelled into a team.*

*Peter and his co-driver Jan, (a rock guitarist for a famous Dutch metal band!), did a fantastic job of planning, targeting and navigating us to at least one storm cell every day. Their approach to chasing produced excellent viewing and photography opportunities without taking unnecessary risks and without getting mixed up with large convoys of chase vehicles. There was also plenty of time to take in interesting museums and natural wonders whilst making our way to where the day's storms were due to initiate. Peter also seems to know all the best places for breakfast (and dinner if chasing allowed).*

*I think we were very fortunate with the high level of severe weather, allowing us to see 4 tornadoes and multiple supercell storms and several severe hail storms with up to 3" hail on the ground. But the trip would have still been a great experience even if there hadn't been as many storms, a road trip with a group of like-minded individuals.*

*I will definitely do another trip with SGC in the future.*



## **Ron – United States**

*I booked my tour on the advice of a photographer friend and tour veteran, who offered little guidance beyond "You ought to do it." So I did. I had no knowledge of extreme weather, and no idea what to expect, having just committed to spend 7 days in a confined space with strangers, with no predefined itinerary beyond trying to follow the vagaries of the weather. But it seemed like a recipe for adventure.*

*And what an adventure it was! For 7 days, we rolled across the Midwest, destination: weather. In that week, we witnessed a technicolour array of what nature has to offer--the sights, sounds, scents, and the thrilling feel of extreme weather. As we waited for the weather, we visited a fun and varied array of local landmarks, museums (kitschy and otherwise), and some interesting eateries. There was plenty of drive time in the van, too. That time was filled with lots of talk about the science and the spectacle of the weather, as well as an endless number of interesting conversations on myriad other topics. In short, every waking moment of the week contributed to an experience I raved about for weeks, and will remember for a lifetime. Many thanks to Peter and my tour mates for the memories. I'll be back next year.*

## **2018 Storm Chasing Testimonials**

### **Susie – United States**

*Hello fellow storm chasers, my name is Susie and I'm from the great state of Texas. I have toured with SGC the past two years. In 2017 we deemed it the "blue sky tour" since we saw little rain and no storms, with exception of the very first night, when there were tornadoes all around us, but...it was dark!! We still had a wonderful time going to the beach, Battleship Texas, NASA, a Civil War Battleground and other interesting sites. Peter has spent so much time in the states, that he knows things to do when the weather isn't cooperating. Pretty good for a British, Canadian, Kiwi.*

*2018's tour was vastly different than 2017's. We CHASED STORMS!!! We were much further north most of the time. We visited six states and saw "weather", AMAZING weather nearly every day. We would usually start with breakfast at a local eatery, which Peter had heard good things about, then it was off to Walmart to fetch groceries for lunch. After that, Peter would determine the best "target" area of the day. Since storms typically don't fire up until late afternoon, we had plenty of time to visit interesting places. We checked out the largest train yard in Nebraska, the Wizard of Oz museum in Kansas, and the Barbed Wire Museum, also in Kansas. My personal favorite was Colorado!!! The room we stayed in had a stream of "snow melt" rushing behind it. We saw kayakers and sat at the picnic tables and had a night cap at the end of a long day. The next morning we went to the top of Mount Evans. Temp was 44 with a wind chill of 35, my kind of weather! Snow was still on the ground, we were able to see Pike's Peak nearly 100 miles to the south, mountain goats, beautiful scenery everywhere. It was breathtaking.*

*My whole point with the things, other than weather, is that there is ALWAYS something to see or do while waiting for the storms to pop...and pop, they do!! In 2018, every single day, but one, we saw thrilling storms. Barely any tornadoes to be seen this year, but it was totally worth it. Our travelers were from Canada, The Netherlands, Australia, Texas and of course New Zealand. An eclectic and FUN bunch to travel with. I see no reason, if Mother Nature cooperates, that 2019 should be any different. To Peter and all the SGC go forth and conquer. You will experience things you've only dreamed of and take the pictures of a lifetime. Chase on.*

### **Guido - Netherlands**

And suddenly I realised: storm chasing means hours and hours for 10 consecutive days with five perfect strangers in one car... Mmmm, how would that turn out? Could I cope with that? Or would I lose my mind (and temper)? Well, no problema señor, it turned out to be a fine bunch of people, we had fun all the way! And I was also lucky weather wise: we saw a lot of beautiful storms. Peter skilfully positioned us numerous times right next to supercells, what a sight! I learned a lot about the weather system too. This calls for a second tour with SGC!

### **Arron – United Kingdom**

*Attending this tour (Tour 4: 10th-16th June 2018) has fed my passion for severe weather and a spot of sightseeing; the two qualities of this tour. Despite 2018 being regarded as an unusually quiet season, we managed to witness severe weather events almost every day across 7 states including intercepting 2 intense storms almost producing a Tornado! The tour enabled me to see parts of the US I wouldn't normally see, especially to the extent that we did (~ one state per day). One personal highlight for me was driving through tornado scarred areas associated with El Reno, OK and Greensburg, KS.*

*The tour itself is well organized and accommodating to the group's needs whether it be rest stops (bathroom breaks, refuelling and snack supplies) or briefing on the day's outlook and development as they progressed. The chase vehicle is very spacious and comfortable which certainly helped with longer trips.*

*Group members were super friendly and tour guide Peter was very helpful in explaining the science of these storms prior to and during chases and informing us of plans throughout the day.*

*I am certainly left wanting more!*

### **Jo Ann – United States**

*In my part of the world, we use the word “lagniappe” to describe that little something extra life occasionally hands to us. Whether it’s a small piece of good fortune or even the extra cookie slipped into the baker’s box, lagniappe prompts the simple joy of receiving something unexpected.*

*My expectations for the Stormgroup Chasers tour were high; I’d been conditioned by my husband’s previous experiences with Peter Wharton and a gang of folks from all over the world whom my husband now calls friends. My husband had waxed poetic about his own storm chases, citing Peter’s expertise, Peter’s conservative views regarding safety and storm chasing without sacrificing quality of experience, and the sheer delight not only in catching the occasional funnel, but in watching storm development from cradle to grave.*

*What I hadn’t anticipated were the bonuses of the tour. Yes, I felt safe, my curiosity was piqued, and I saw beautiful cloud formations and countryside views. What I hadn’t expected was the sense of being included as a valuable team member, despite my amateur status. I hadn’t expected the unique pleasure of traveling with like-minded folks who appreciate the dynamism of nature and its beauty. I hadn’t expected to laugh as much as we did, despite our group coming from several different countries and from a variety of cultures. I was humbled and felt the universality of a sense of wonderment as our team viewed slices of America. Together.*



*Aaaaah. It was hard to return to real life after the excitement of the tour. But as I look outside to the threatening heavens, I realize that perhaps the greatest lagniappe is the new eyes with which I scan my own Mississippi skies.*

### **Steve & Cindy – United States**

*My wife and I had a great time with Peter and others storm chasing. There is nothing quite like the adrenaline rush when the chase is on. The adventure is about much more than spotting a tornado. It is the anticipation every morning, waiting for the storms to develop, driving to the most promising locations and then, going like crazy when the severe weather begins to break out. It is the beauty of nature, the breathtaking scenery, the foreboding beauty of a super-cell formation and the lightening flashing across the evening sky. There is also the camaraderie that develops with your fellow chasers. It all adds up to a magical experience. And, it gets into you blood. Peter is not only a knowledgeable weather expert, but a really fun and interesting guy who enjoys sharing these adventures with others. When the week ended my wife and I were already talking about next year's chasing and looking forward to meeting other severe weather fans.*

### **Dave – United States**

*I recently had the chance to scratch one off the bucket list: storm chasing. After my week on the plains, however, I came to the realization that storm chasing trips are much like the gas station potato chips I ate along the way: one is simply not enough. Thus I begin studying the options for next year.*

*Chasing storms is the Great American Road Trip. It gets you off the Interstate and on the highways and byways of the USA. You see things that you would otherwise have no opportunity to see and visit small towns in the heartland where it seems that time passes more slowly. You are likely to see amazing supercell thunderstorms, golf-ball sized hail (hopefully only on the road), more lightning than you can imagine and, if you are very lucky, the holy grail of storm chasing: TORNADO.*

*If you do decide to go, then you cannot go wrong with Peter Wharton and StormGroup Chasers. From a logistics standpoint, the vehicles are Suburbans which are much preferable to the cargo vans used by most companies; the group is small and mobile, and the prices are the most reasonable on the plains. Peter is extremely knowledgeable about weather and the models, forecasting, etc. and able and willing to share this knowledge. It is always rewarding to spend time with people who are passionate about what they are doing, and that describes Peter. He is also a fascinating person, with tales to tell about his trips to Mount Everest, Antarctica, and others.*

*I came home with a collection of great images and a burning desire to go back for more, as well as an appreciation of the fascinating subculture of stormchasers, of which I am now a part!*

### **2017 Storm Chasing Testimonials**

#### **Brad – United States**

*Storm chasing might be a misnomer sometimes ... in actuality, storm chasing can more accurately be described as road-trip roulette aided by meteorology.*

*There is no defined destination, no idea where you will wake up, what you will see, who you will meet and what you will experience out there. You might be in the middle of a Kansas cornfield one day and*

*the heart of Cajun country the next. There is a constant sense of adventure and a giddiness to waking up in the morning having no earthly idea where you might end up next.*

*Some of what ends up happening is determined by the delicate, baffling mix of land, water, air and temperature that can only be confidently predicted in the broadest of terms. A good guide uses science, experience and hunches to point the group in the right direction, to the next location. The rest is determined by chance, serendipity and the energy of those who are along for the ride.*

*It was an immensely gratifying, fun, exciting and wonderful week out there in America, bounding from town to town looking for history around every corner and every taste and sound that this great land produces when it's at its best.*

#### **David – United States**

*I had the unique opportunity to join SGC on Tour 1 in 2017. Before choosing SGC I extensively researched the different tour groups available. I chose SGC because not only does Peter have a fantastic record for finding the right storm while offering one of the least expensive weeks around, but also because of the SGC's model of a small group which allows close interactions and great flexibility during the chase. It was an unforgettable experience...despite the fact that mother nature did not provide us with many opportunities during the week, the experience of visiting many unique venues and seeing parts of the US I don't normally visit, plus the friendships and memories that will last a lifetime, made for an unforgettable week. If you have a fascination with weather and a desire to experience it up close, I HIGHLY recommend SGC...whether you have chased before or for a first time, you will not regret choosing SGC!!*

#### **Marcus – United Kingdom**

*As Ron Weasley might say "Bloody brilliant...". There are other people who can and will write reviews more eloquently. All I can say is that I could not have asked for a more enjoyable week. It was educational, humbling, let me see parts of the country I'd only read about or seen in films, enjoy some very good company and most importantly experience some of the most awe inspiring weather. From start to finish Peter was a commensurate professional and this was reflected in the guests I was lucky enough to share the tour with. I have certainly come away feeling that I made the right choice choosing StormGroup Chasers. It's akin to that feeling you have when you encounter anything which is high quality, you just know. Many thanks everyone on Tour Six 2017.*

#### **2016 Storm Chasing Testimonials**

##### **Mike – United States**

*I was fortunate to have been subbed into Tour Five this year at late notice, and I couldn't have hoped for a better experience for my first storm chasing tour!*

*Peter was the consummate storm chasing tour guide, full of both knowledge and wisdom, and quick to dispense both. He has a keen eye for developing storms and a passionate interest in the field.*

*During inevitable down times during our weeklong tour (i.e. several mornings), he has a considerate concern for his guests' interest levels and planned entertaining diversions for us, whilst always maintaining an eye on the forecast timing to ensure we were still "positioned" properly when it came time for active chasing. Peter also possesses a scholarly wit, and can regale his tour group with both weather facts on-the-move as well as personal tales of adventure that border on Indiana Jones-ish.*

*Accommodations were secured every night at motels that were safe and clean, thanks to advance planning, we never stayed anywhere inadequate. Our food choices were a mix of interesting local finds (fantastic Creole food in Montana... who knew?) and grab-and-go when there was a need to well, grab and go!*

*Because Peter's tours are limited to 6 people -- including himself and his co-driver -- it remains a compact, flexible, intimate, fast-moving group dynamic. With all due respect to the large caravan-style tours on the market, I much prefer this self-contained tour method.*

*The other major difference of course is that Peter does not run this operation as a for-profit tour company. It's more like "splitting the costs" of storm chasing, which means that he's doing this to pursue a passion instead of dollars.*

*In addition to Peter's knack for storm-finding and tour planning, I found Rick to be a courteous and competent co-driver, also knowledgeable and well-equipped to help gauge the skies. Brad, Jody and Lena were delightful companions making for a congenial backseat experience, even over a 4,000-mile road trip week.*

*Thanks to all involved for a great experience! Already looking forward to next year!*

#### **Kate - Australia**

*Chasing storms across the wide plains of mid-west America is one of those "bucket-list" holidays. I flew from Australia to spend 7 days in a car with total strangers, and it was the most interesting vacation I'd ever had! Peter is such a Storm guru – he was able to get us to see the most amazing storms, and I am forever grateful for this chance of a lifetime Great people, amazing landscape and a real group adventure! Can't wait to go again!!"*

#### **2015 Storm Chasing Testimonials**

##### **Lauren & Al – United States**

*My husband and I chased with Storm Group Chasers for the first time in May 2015. We chose them because of all the positive reviews we found online. We had previously chased with another tour group and were eager to experience this one.*

*One of the things that attracted us to SGC is the fact that they use only one vehicle – a large SUV – as opposed to 3 or 4 vans that other groups use. The SUV we were in was roomy and comfy, and it was a pleasure to have a cooler onboard so that we could store drinks and munchies for snacks and picnic lunches. Another benefit to having a single vehicle with 6 passengers was that we had more options for breaks and lodging – no scrambling to find places that could accommodate large groups quickly. We ate and stayed mostly at smaller, "Mom and Pop" – type diners and motels. Another thing we liked about touring with SGC was that, owing to the small group size, we were able to do some mighty fine sightseeing at a leisurely pace, such as the Buddy Holly museum and the Mineral Wells Hotel; the latter is on the National Register of Historic Places.*

*The bottom line for many chasers is, did you see any tornadoes? The answer is yes, we did: a nice stovepipe/elephant trunk from a safe distance.*



*I would be remiss if I didn't give props to Peter Wharton himself. He is a professional and a gentleman, truly caring and hospitable, knowledgeable, and a delightful traveling companion. Thanks for all you did to make ours a memorable chase tour, Peter!*

#### **Valerie & Aiden - Canada**

*What an amazing tour! Thank you so much, Peter, for one of the most amazing experiences of my life! I could not have picked a better tour! SGC's tours are personal, informative, and packed full of adventure; I call it the best road trip ever! Days are full of whatever the local sights are (and there are lots - museums, parks, hiking and picnics, and Peter always knows what to see) and then late afternoon for the storms. His ability to get us to the right place at the right time was spot on (personally, I think he is a wizard).*

*Whether stopping to shoot buffalo or pronghorn, deserted farmhouses or rock formations, or the most amazing storms I've ever seen, we were all of one mind. The small group made travelling a joy, and I made lifelong friends that love nature and photography the same way I do.*

#### **Randy – United States**

*If, like me, you find clouds beautiful, weather fascinating, and storms exhilarating, then there are few experiences you'll find better than a week with Peter Wharton and StormGroup Chasers. In Peter, I found unmatched passion for the phenomena and the chase. Along with that passion comes expertise and intuition. Peter continuously studied forecasts, data, and analysis from multiple sources to put us in the best position for spectacular storm chases; in one case, we followed a storm from its beginnings as a mere puff of a cloud through a severe-warned stage until it ultimately spawned a funnel. The very next day Peter put us in the sweet spot again - in position to safely watch the complete life-cycle of a major storm. The biggest surprise I received during the trip, though, was the experience outside of the chase itself: through Peter, I met and shared a week with a fantastic group of people, seeing wonderful sights, telling fascinating stories, and building life-long friendships.*

#### **Lena – United States**

*The storm chasing tour was truly just awesome. It was my first chase and I'm so happy I picked StormGroup Chasers. I loved the small group experience as opposed to the larger commercial tours. Peter was communicative the whole time, so I really felt I understood both what I was seeing and why we were doing what we were doing. He actively pursued all promising storms in the area, but I never felt as though I was in immediate danger. As a first time chaser it was exactly the experience I had hoped for. Incredible storms of course and I learned so much that books or video just can't teach you. It was also an incredible great American road trip to some truly unique sites I never would have seen otherwise. I'm looking forward to next year!*

#### **Linda - Netherlands**

*My boyfriend (can you still say that if you're over fifty?) is very into storm chasing, and he invited me to join him this year, for a week. I enjoyed it very much, saw lots of beautiful scenery, impressive skies, spectacular lightning shows, hail the size of golf balls, and even a tornado! The tour was organized very well, and though my friends at home were a little concerned I would make it home in one piece, I felt very safe during the tour, thanks to two great drivers! I will certainly recommend StormGroup Chasers to people who are interested to experience a storm chase.*



### **Denise – United States**

*All I can say is Wow! What an awesome experience and team, with both the great expertise of Peter (one of the best in the industry) and skilled assistant/driver, Brad. It was one of the most exciting experiences in my life, and what great storms and pictures to show all. In fact I have already let Peter know that I will be back in 2016 for some more StormGroup Chasers.*

*P.S. When there are no storms to chase, Peter and the team take you to some wonderful and beautiful places in this great USA. Also special thanks to Trudy, Rick and Jackie for showing me the ropes as it was my first time chasing and travelling solo!*

### **2014 Storm Chasing Testimonials**

#### **Stuart & Jo – United Kingdom**

*The two main reasons why we think this group suits us is there is only 6 people at once. The other reason is the friendly and knowledgeable Tour Leader, Peter Wharton. He always manages wherever possible to get us in the right place at the right time, but without taking undue risks. Peter is very friendly and approachable and has a vast knowledge and a sixth sense for the weather, probably due to instinct and experience.*

*We have already booked for next year which will be my 8th and my wife's 7<sup>th</sup> year of storm chasing. I thoroughly recommend this for anyone interested in severe storms!*

#### **David - Canada**

*My StormGroup Chasers tour was fantastic. From start to finish, it was a fun, engaging experience. We were on all storms of any significance. SGC would always position well for any potential storm outbreak and take the necessary actions to get us there in time, safely and without incident. You feel with SGC that if there was a storm to be seen, we'd be there.*

*Peter Wharton runs a professional, engaging and fun tour. You always feel that you're in good hands. From initial booking to tour end and follow up, you feel that you were part of a professional, experienced tour group. Peter takes the time to make sure even the little day to day details of tours are covered and you feel in the know at all times. Additionally, the daily Facebook update provides you a great reminder of your tour.*

#### **Alison – United States**

*Thanks to Peter for an unforgettable week of amazing storm chasing. He is a rock star, a gentleman and has the best music mixes to help pass the many hours in the vehicle. I will post photos when I get back home and have time to edit the hundreds of images I made while chasing. Thanks again, Peter, and I hope to see you again next year.*

#### **Don – United States**

*This was my first year chasing and I am hooked. Despite being late in the season, every afternoon delivered another jaw-dropping encounter with a gigantic, beautiful, swirling storm. I saw the most intense lightning display I've ever seen, and was introduced to many types of weather I'd never imagined*



*Our leader, Peter Wharton, gets full credit for getting us into the right places at the right times. He demonstrated a great mixture of knowledge, planning, instinct and caution that kept us excited, but never scared. I am a landscape photographer and came away from the trip with images that have inspired more positive reaction than almost any other work I've made.*

*I've already signed up for next year.*

#### **Jody – United States**

*My experience with Storm Group Chasers was nothing short of awesome. The thoughtfulness and expertise shown by Peter and his crew during our week together was so very impressive. We saw amazing weather (of course!) and had such a relaxed and entertaining time together as a group. I cannot wait to get out there and do it all over again!*

#### **Anne – United States**

*I'd just like to say that I've always had a great experience when chasing with StormGroup Chasers. Peter is an experienced storm spotter and leader getting us on great storms while keeping safety a priority. Having a love for photography, most photo opportunities are accommodated as long as it doesn't interfere with the timing of the chase.*

*For anyone who is interested in the technical aspects of targeting severe weather, Peter is eager to share his knowledge.*

*SGC tours are unique in that it is a small group. We are able to get to know one another, unlike some tour companies who have larger groups of people. By the end of the week you will have made lifelong friends as well as have a camera full of great memories*

#### **2013 Storm Chasing Testimonials**

#### **Camille – United States**

*When I travel with Peter Wharton I feel like one member in a small team. I like that we learn about the data and science as we go. Safety is a priority; I feel safe and relaxed. I keep coming back because it's the right combination of fraternity with liberty. It allows me the space to make powerful images without feeling like I am a sheep herded into a van. If you want to learn, be part of a small group, need to feel comfortable and safe, and see amazing things. This is the group for you.*

#### **Glenn – United States**

*After many years of driving together with Peter in search of tornadic storms, it was such a pleasure to do so again in 2013 with StormGroup Chasers. I must say that I am pleasantly pleased with the new style of organization Peter worked up for the tour group which offers a more personal experience for everyone, not often found in larger tour groups. Peter not only shares his knowledge of weather, but keeps everyone informed as to our objectives and our current weather situation. This enables everyone to better understand the dynamics behind tornadic storm development and thus acquire a deeper appreciation for the weather events that are witnessed.*

*Another nice touch to the tours is the daily picnic lunch. This was a really nice break from the normal fast food restaurants. When it comes to breakfast and dinner, Peter tries to find a restaurant that is a*



*local favourite instead of the usual national chain restaurant fare. We had some really awesome home style cooked meals on the tours this last year!*

*Anyone who even considers going out on a Storm Chasing Tour will discover that you instantly have commonality with everyone else on the tour and the common thread is your fascination with weather. Peter's approach to a smaller group concept is much more personable and educational and the experiences you share with the group will establish lifelong friendships.*

#### **Brad & Trudy - Canada**

*We started chasing in 2010, and have been with StormGroup Chasers since its inception. With Peter's keen understanding of storm formation and interpretation of weather data, we have been fortunate to chase some of the most notable storms in recent years, including Joplin and El Reno. Of course, safety is the first priority and while we always strive to be in the best position to witness tornadic activity, making sure we do not wind up in harm's way remains paramount. The camaraderie with the people we have met over the years is what makes each chase week unique, and we are fortunate to have made friends from all over the world. Can't wait to get back out there in 2014 - thanks, Peter*

#### **Jan - Netherlands**

*Chased with SGC for the 3rd year in a row and I want to express my gratitude to Peter again a great week of chasing. Very well organized and lots of fun! Peter must have a 6th sense for severe weather because wherever there was a good storm with tornado potential we were already at the best spot. Also a big thank you to my friend Glenn for co-driving us safely. And to the rest of the group- Rick, Jeff and Ed, it was great getting to know you and I am happy to have 3 new friends-for-life. We took all opportunities to get us to severe weather, and with enough time to enjoy other entertainment. We really did have a holiday feeling.*

#### **David - Canada**

*StormGroup Chasers is truly a step above the average storm chasing tour operators. From start to finish, Peter is informative, engaging and open for input and feedback on the days chasing. You feel you truly are a part of the active weather decision making process. So whether chasing those elusive storms, finding a little town or diner to eat in or the exploring the vast plains of the US, you are going to have a thoroughly enjoyable vacation.*

#### **Tim – New Zealand**

*Excellent trip and overall experience. The combination of being part of a like-minded group, with excellent leadership, education and driving from Peter and Brad, being in the right places for the best storms, the sheer beauty and power of the storm and cloud systems, the hospitality of rural America plus the scenery stops along the way all makes for a compelling week. Most of all the confidence in knowing that we were in the right-place at the right-time, spot on each day, meant we had made the best of opportunities for observation without unnecessary risk. Thanks again for a great week*

#### **Jean - Canada**

*I think there is a Peter Pan hiding just under the surface for most of us quote "adults". Watching the storms, clouds, lightening and rainbows and hearing the crack of thunder, torrential rains and hail is quite magical, like being 12 years old again!! We visited so many wonderful places. It was an*



*exceptional experience for me and a great deal of that can be attributed to Peter where safety was paramount and any question or concern was treated with courtesy and respect. And a thank you to Brad (our co-driver and questionable interpreter), Anne, Victoria and Tim who made the trip just perfect.*

#### **Dave & Lee – United Kingdom**

*This year was our third year with Pete and again we enjoyed ourselves immensely. When there were storms we chased and saw some awesome sights, but even when there wasn't we still managed to have a great time due to the company of Pete and Brad! Bottom line is that if there are storms Pete is the man to get you into the right place at the right time. Even if there aren't any storms on any one day, then you will still have good food and good company.*

#### **Rebecca & Iain - Australia**

*Thank you, Peter for a most outstanding week! 3 TORNADOS and a camera full of amazing moments. Your organisation and care made for a very terrific experience. We will be back!*

#### **Malcolm - Australia**

*Day1. Sunday afternoon. Picnic lunch in a strategically located park. Then a short drive to watch a supercell grow from origin to 52000' in less than an hour! Reposition a few times to observe the attached tornados, including a massive wedge. And the rest of the week was just as amazing! Peter's knowledge and experience, along with his clear-thinking and relaxed communication style, made for an unforgettable time on the Great Plains.*

#### **Steve – United States**

*Thoroughly enjoyed the week I spent storm chasing with StormGroup Chasers. Great professionalism and camaraderie with a strong commitment to safety. Intelligent, informed choices on which storms to intercept. Overall, a satisfying experience.*

#### **Jeffrey - Canada**

*Without a doubt, this was the best adventure vacation I've ever had! It was an educational and exciting experience which I am definitely signing up for again and again!*

*The Team Lead, Peter, is very clever and willing to share his wealth of knowledge in an easy to understand, interesting manner. Anything you want to know about weather phenomena, he is happy to inform. Importantly, safety is always at the heart of any decision made and because of his understanding of storm dynamics (and perhaps some good old fashioned intuition) Peter always placed us at the "right place, at the right time".*

*What better way to see places in the US that you may not otherwise visit?! The photographic opportunities were boundless and the laughs and the friendships made with like-minded persons will last a lifetime. The smaller, nimble group approach allows you learn and see much while greatly simplifying travel logistics.*

*If you've ever given any thought to storm chasing, StormGroup Chasers is most definitely the way to go!*



## **Russell – United Kingdom**

*A fantastic job of finding tornadoes, sand storms, hail, lightning etc etc – was really spoiled and it would be tough to repeat or better it. The weather interpretation and positioning were truly outstanding and despite the severity of the weather systems I felt in really safe hands.*

*We were also unbelievably well looked after. The eclectic choice of unique breakfast venues, the picnic lunches and the effort to provide variety in our evening meals was indicative of how much the focus was on us and providing a truly holistic experience - customer service par excellence! All in all a great experience - thank you.*

## **2012 Storm Chasing Testimonials**

### **Adam – United Kingdom**

*I went with StormGroup Chasers in 2012 as they were offering a different experience to the other tour operators I'd been with before and will be coming back for more with them. I also saved in the region of \$1000 on the trip which is a bonus.*

*So what's different? You get a great storm chasing experience but combined with a well thought out and engaging road trip. Bearing in mind the 3000 or so miles travelled in a week there's so much more to the Plains than just storms (don't worry you will see some) and cliched tourist stops: great scenery, photo opportunities, quality food stops and picnics, meeting the interesting and friendly folk of the Mid-West - in short some authentic Americana.*

*SGC also has a lot of returners so there's usually a lot of experienced travellers to share stories and photos with. You also have the advantage of being on an agile tour with only 6 of you which makes for easier chasing. On this tour you're not just a "passenger". I saw super cells with amazing structures and rotating wall clouds, gustnadoes, hail fog, stunning lighting, mammatus clouds, and breathtaking sunsets*

## **2011 Storm Chasing Testimonials**

### **Gwen – United States**

*This was my fourth storm chasing tour (had been with other tour groups in prior years), and this was the first where I saw a tornado. I owe that to Peter's ability to read dew points, dry lines and more and be able to estimate where things might kick off. Peter doesn't hesitate to drive far and long to see blockbuster weather. With his (comic) relief driver Jock, Peter's van was a jolly group indeed.*

### **Brad - Canada**

*I had a wonderful experience with StormGroup Chasers! They were kind, knowledgeable and they took the time to explain the dynamics of tornadoes and storms. I had a blast! I'll definitely call them again for my next adventure in Tornado Alley!*



### **Jo and Stuart – United Kingdom**

*Thanks for a great trip Peter. We thoroughly enjoyed it. You really got any possible storms bang on !! You obviously have a talent for getting us in the right place at the right time!! Looking forward to next year. Please let us know the itinerary as soon as you plan it and I will work any other plans around it. Thanks again.*

### **Lee – United Kingdom**

*It was mine and my Dad's 4th year in a row (had been with other tour groups in prior years) and by far the best. Pete was right on the money when it came to the positions and explained his reasoning for these, something we had not always experienced on other tours. Pete and Jock proved to be a great team and kept their domestics to a minimum. We would highly recommend this tour and are looking forward to going again next year!!!!*

### **Trudy - Canada**

*There are three things that stand out for me when chasing with Peter Wharton and StormGroup Chasers. The first is communication. Even before we met for our tour, Peter had shared a number of user-friendly websites and resources for those of us who might be interested in brushing up on our thunderstorm and tornado-based meteorology. On the tour, Peter always shared information with the group, especially as it pertained to selecting target chase areas. He was always willing to explain the data as well as why and how it impacted on the formation of storms. Questions were always welcomed and answered with patience and a smile.*

*The second thing of note is safety. I ALWAYS felt safe chasing with StormGroup Chasers. Many groups seem willing to take unnecessary risks to get close to a storm, or punch through a hail core. Some companies, including one I have travelled with previously, had young drivers with little to no experience driving in chase conditions, in large vehicles whose handling they were not familiar with. Even when weather and road conditions were deteriorating, I always felt secure with Peter, and his co-driver Jock, at the wheel and knew that they would not continue if it meant putting ourselves in a vulnerable situation.*

*Perhaps my favourite thing about StormGroup Chasers is the small group/one vehicle approach. Not only did this allow us to be more nimble in our chase, but small things like stopping for a meal or a break, even checking into a hotel at the end of the chase day, were much faster when dealing with four guests in a vehicle as opposed to 15 or more. It also allowed for a much more intimate experience with plenty of laughter and camaraderie.*

*My fellow chasers and I have developed a friendship which I treasure, and we hope to reunite as a group for many more years of chasing to come.*

### **Jan - Netherlands**

*Want to take the opportunity to thank Peter and Jock for a great week! Very well organized and lots of fun! Great storm forecasting and taking all opportunities to get the group to severe weather. Also enough time to enjoy other entertainment. We really did have a holiday feeling.*

### **Paul – United States**

*Thank You Peter for a spectacular chase in 2011. My goal each year is to chase storms wherever they are located. Chasing farther East than most chasers, allowed our group to witness a tornado that others just watched on the 11:00 news. The one car format makes it easier to go where the storms are and not waste time while 15 people eat lunch. I am excited about returning in 2012. I know that we will be at the right spot, at the right time for any storm worth chasing. Cheers!*

### **Richard and Kathleen - Canada**

*A truly unique and awesome experience where you can meet people that share the same passion about severe weather. Peter has all the tools and an uncanny ability to consistently predict and pinpoint the best storms. His small group approach gives everyone a window seat and an opportunity to communicate, be involved, learn and ask questions. We will both be back next year.*

### **Leslie – United States**

*During our week out, we chased those storms up one side of Tornado Alley and down the other. Literally. Had there been a tornado, we would have been there to see it. But storm chasing is more than tornado chasing, and we saw a lot of beautiful clouds, awesome lightning, and rolling countryside. It was a very enjoyable trip, with enjoyable company, and I can't wait to go again!*

### **Victoria – United States**

*My passion is not only watching nature in its fury, but understanding and learning why and how it happens. After taking a few storm chasing tours with another company I was able to observe some great storms, but didn't learn anything. That changed when chasing with Peter – not only is he able to find storms (if they are happening), he is more than willing to share his knowledge about storms, weather, and how it all works together. The tour is a collaborative approach, and the limited number of participants makes it a great experience for like-minded storm chasers!*